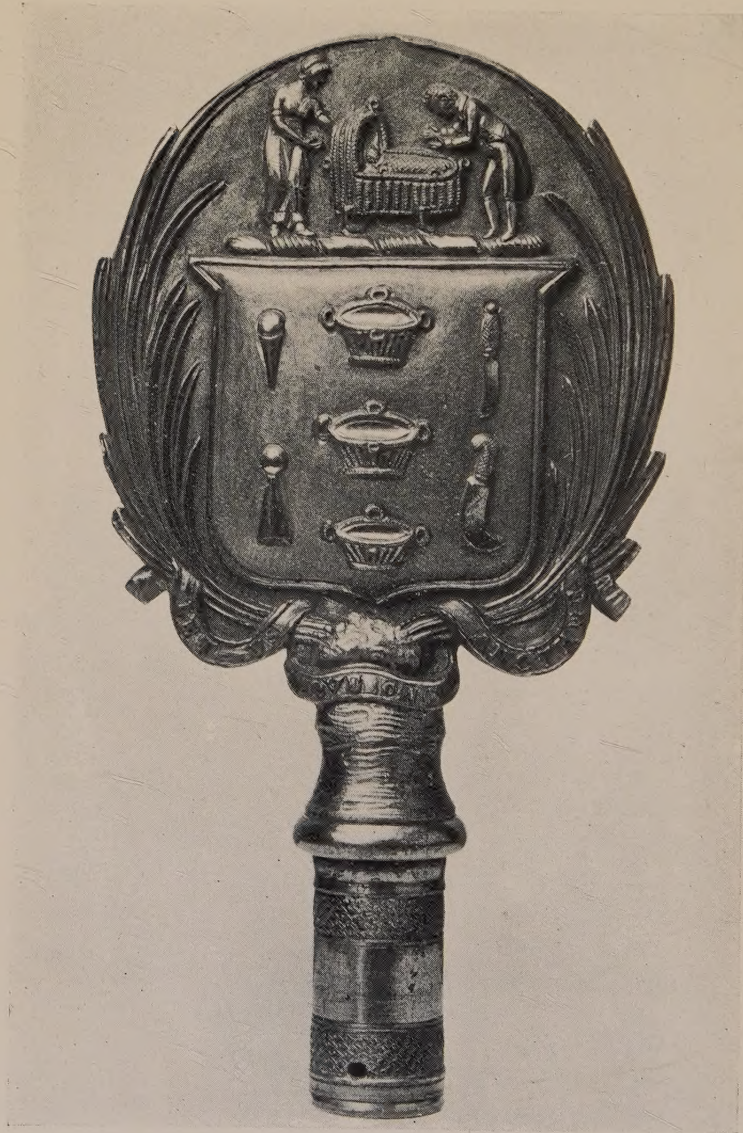
RECORDS OF

The Basketmakers' Company



THE OLD MACE. [*Frontispiece.*

RECORDS OF

The Basketmakers' Company.

PART I

COMPILED BY

HENRY HODGKINSON BOBART,

CLERK TO THE COMPANY.

LONDON:
DUNN, COLLIN & CO.
ST. MARY AXE, E.C.
1911.

"Whereof also . . . there be Baskets made, which seeing the Britains call Bascades, I for my part that I may note so much by the way, doe not understand the Poet Martiall in that Distichon unlesse he meaneth these amoung the Presents and Gifts sent to and fro ; Barbara de pictis veni Bascauda Britannis, Sed me jam mavult dicere Roma suam."

CAMDEN (1610).

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THE COURT OF

The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

1910–1911.

PRIME WARDEN:

PALMER BRYANT, ESQ.

JUNIOR WARDEN:

REUBEN HENRY FROST, ESQ.

ASSISTANTS:

WILLIAM THOMAS PARMLY MONTGOMERY, ESQ.
JOHN GEORGE DIBBLE, ESQ.
JAMES PALMER PIKE, ESQ.
EDWARD KNOTT, ESQ.
FREDERICK HENRY PULLEN, ESQ.
GEORGE HENRY FINCH, ESQ.
JOHN WHITTLE HARVEY, ESQ.
WILLIAM PHILIP GOOSEY, ESQ.
FREDERICK DUNN, ESQ.
ALFRED DOUBLE, ESQ., J.P.
HORACE ROBERT SPENCE, ESQ.
WALTER YOUNG, ESQ., LL.B.
AUGUSTUS GEORGE GRANTHAM, ESQ.
RICHARD FEESEY, ESQ.
ARTHUR BLENKARN, ESQ.
WILLIAM WILLIAMS BULLWORTHY, ESQ.
JAMES CHARLES NAPOLEON WHITE, ESQ.
AUGUSTUS ALFRED FRIGOUT, ESQ.
REV. J. H. ETCHEL, M.A.
WALTER GLADDING, ESQ.
WILLIAM FOSTER GRESHAM, ESQ., F.C.A.
ROBERT WILLIAM MOFFREY, ESQ., J.P.

TO

THE WARDENS AND COURT OF ASSISTANTS

OF THE

Worshipful Company of Basketmakers

OF THE CITY OF LONDON,

THIS VOLUME

IS RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY

DEDICATED.

"And bending osiers into baskets weav'd."

DRYDEN.

PREFACE

THE Craft Guilds or Livery Companies, with their ancient records and historical associations, rank among the most interesting institutions of the City of London. Deprived of old-world surroundings, their quaint customs have lost their former significance, and their powers and privileges have, with few exceptions, become obsolete. Yet in spite of altered economic conditions the old Guilds survive, for time seems powerless to efface such splendid monuments to the wisdom and industry of our forefathers.

The annals of most of these ancient Guilds have been written, but the compiler of the following pages found to his regret that no history of the Basket-makers existed. A search among the civic and parochial archives was therefore instituted and this account compiled, with the object of preserving the old records, and in the hope that the work now submitted may serve as an outline for the worthier efforts of others in the future. The book has been written in the few spare

hours of a busy life; some consideration, therefore, is asked for literary shortcomings.

The scanty records prior to the establishment of the Company suggest an earlier organization of the fraternity, though no documentary evidence of this has yet been found. There are traces of Basket-makers in the City at an early period, and the more remote the time in which there is evidence of the existence of a craft, the stronger is the presumption that the members of that craft had associated themselves for their mutual protection.

The Company's quarter or minute books date back to the year 1661, the earlier ones having been destroyed in the Great Fire. The little information before that date has been obtained chiefly from the records of the Corporation of the City of London contained in the Letter Books, Repertories and Journals preserved at the Guildhall. The records reveal the condition and progress of basket-making for a considerable period, and thus in some measure, these pages become the history of the trade in London.

Basket-making, a craft requiring few and simple tools, is one of the oldest of the mechanical arts, and primitive bone awls—the archaic implements of the first basket-makers—have been found among the remains of the

Mound Builders. It is probable that the art of weaving originated from the interlacing of twigs into wickerwork, but the origin of the earlier craft appears to be lost in the obscurity of prehistoric times.

The compiler presents his grateful acknowledgments to the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London for the privilege accorded him of searching among the treasures of the Muniment Room; and to Dr. Reginald R. Sharpe, Clerk of the Records (whose Calendars of the Corporation Letter Books afford the student of London history an exhaustive store of valuable information). The compiler's thanks are also due to Mr. F. J. Craker, of the Town Clerk's Office, and Mr. H. C. Welch, of the Guildhall Library, for assistance so generously given.

H. H. B.

22, BASINGHALL STREET, LONDON.
September, 1911.

INTRODUCTION

THE Basket-makers' Company was established * by an order of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen on the 22nd September, 1569. This recognition was referred to in the petition for ordinances, as being "transferred and made free all of one crafte, companie, and ffellowshipp, called the Basket-makers of the Cittie of London."

Many years prior to the above date, the civic authorities had granted licence to a small number of English Basket-makers to exercise their trade in the City; but at the time of their constitutional settlement the majority had secured their freedom of the City through the instrumentality of the Butchers' Company, and the reference to being "transferred" relates to the formal transfer of the free Basket-makers from that body.† The number of non-freemen enrolled in 1569 "free of this City of the

* The word "incorporated" is used in the City Records. On the distinction between incorporation by charter of the Crown and establishment by authority of the City, see Lambert, "Two Thousand Years of Gild Life," 1891, pp. 376-385; also Pulling, "The Laws, Customs, Usages, and Regulations of the City and Port of London," 1854, 2nd ed. p. 50.

† City Records.—Repertory 16, fols. 106 and 112b.; Letter Book V. fol. 49b., *vide* pp. 28, 29, 49, 50.

Company of Basket-makers" was eleven.* This number was subsequently increased by the addition of the Basket-makers free of the Butchers' Company; and although the number transferred is not recorded,† it may be inferred from the account of the incident that, having regard to the times, it was fairly considerable.

The trade of basket-making—in which the ancient Britons excelled—was established in the City in early times, but no doubt the comparatively humble position of the craft accounts for the non-recognition of the Basket-makers before the latter part of the sixteenth century.

It is thought that the Company existed before 1569, but an exhaustive search in the City archives and the churchwardens' books referring to the parishes in which the Basket-makers resided, revealed no trace of the existence of an earlier corporation established by royal or civic authority. The most that can be said on this obscure point, in view of the antiquity‡ of the trade, is that some form of voluntary association of the fraternity probably existed at a remote period,

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* Repertory 16, fol. 502; Letter Book V. fol. 254, *vide* p. 41.

† Owing to the loss of the books of both Companies in the Great Fire, the number transferred cannot be ascertained; nor is it possible to state the date when the Basket-makers first made a practice of obtaining their freedom of the City through the Butchers' Company.

‡ In the first century (A.D.), "The chief exports from Britain were copper and tin, lime and chalk, pearls, corn, cattle, hides, cheese, horses, dogs, and slaves; with one solitary article of manufacture, baskets." (Dr. Henry, "History of Great Britain," 1771).

though unrecognised by the City. The inclusion of the Basket-makers in a list of crafts "of old accustomed" recorded in the Brewers' books in 1422 * and the few references in the City Records prior to the recognition of the Basket-makers, give colour to the conjecture. Several of the crafts enumerated by the Brewers † had obtained charters of incorporation before the above-mentioned date, and it may be assumed that all the others possessed some form of organization at that time by reason of their inclusion in the list.‡ The Basket-makers, however, do not appear to have maintained continuity of association down to the date of the establishment of the Company, since in their petition for ordinances and in their subsequent petition for a charter, though mention is made of their "ancient calling," there is no reference to an earlier organization of the craft.

In their petition to the Court of Aldermen in 1569 praying for a constitutional settlement, the Basket-makers stated that "no provision or punishment had been devised to meet with deceit except in of late, both in slight making of the said wares as well in this City as in the Country." As no ordinances had been previously

---

* *Vide* p. 6.

† The list was prepared as a guide for letting the Brewers' Hall.

‡ This appears to be the opinion of authorities on the City Guilds—*vide* Unwin, "The Gilds and Companies of London," 1908, p. 88. Herbert, "History of the Twelve Great Companies of London," 1847, vol. i. p. 105. Jupp, "Historical Account of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters," 1848, p. 7.

granted by the Court of Aldermen, the Basketmakers were doubtless referring to an Act of Henry VIII.,* which *inter alia* gave power to bailiffs or governors of towns "to search, view and reform" the work of alien craftsmen. In their Petition of 1682 for a charter of the Crown, they stated that "they were an ancient society by virtue of certain Rules and Constitutions† granted them by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen;" and the Attorney-General, in reporting on this petition, said, "I do find that they have been long a society governed by Rules and Constitutions approved by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen from time to time." On receipt of this report, the Basketmakers submitted "Some Reasons" for their incorporation, in which they stated that "they had been a fellowship nearly 150 years." This agrees approximately with the date of the establishment of the Company.

In the course of the negotiations which preceded the civic recognition, the Court of Aldermen enquired of the Wardens of the Butchers whether their Company would agree to have all the Basket-makers taken from them for the purpose of being "united and incorporated to the other Basket-makers of this City" about to

---

* 15 & 16 Henry VIII. (c. 2). Ratified by a decree of the Star Chamber in 1528.

† Ordinances were granted by the Court of Aldermen in 1569, 1585, and 1610.

be "erected and made a Company and Fellowship of themselves." To this enquiry, the Butchers signified their assent.

Here it may be interesting to note that Stow, in describing Pudding Lane, tells us it was chiefly inhabited by Basket-makers, Turners, and Butchers. Living in the same locality, it seems obvious that the Basket-makers, before they received the privilege of enfranchisement in their own craft, should have secured the freedom of the City through the agency of the Butchers' or the Turners' Companies. As previously stated, many were free of the former, and a reference to the Turners' Company, in the City Record of May 3rd, 1569,* suggests the probability that several Basket-makers were free of the latter, for the Turners dealt largely in baskets at that period. In a later record of March 20th, 1622,† mention is made of a freeman of the Turners' Company following the trade of basket-making, and as late as 1747 baskets "figured considerably" in the Turners' shops.‡

Pudding Lane is in the parish of St. Andrew Hubbard, and in Stow's time several of the Churchwardens followed the occupations which the old historian tells us predominated in the locality.§

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* *Vide* p. 30.
† *Vide* p. 113.
‡ Waller, "General Description of all Trades," *vide* Appendix A.
§ *Vide* pp. 16, 17, and notes, p. 17.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE CRAFT.

The early history of the City Basket-makers is enveloped in obscurity, though some few references to the fraternity may be mentioned before passing on to the account of the establishment and subsequent records of the Company.

The earliest record discovered is the previously mentioned entry in the books of the Brewers' Company * in the year 1422. This is a list of the Crafts of London,† which at that time had long been in existence, the Basket-makers being the seventy-sixth on the list appearing under the following heading:—"The titles of divers crafts of old accustomed and still continuing in this the 9th year of Henry V., and here set down in case they may in any manner be of advantage to the Hall and Company of Brewers."

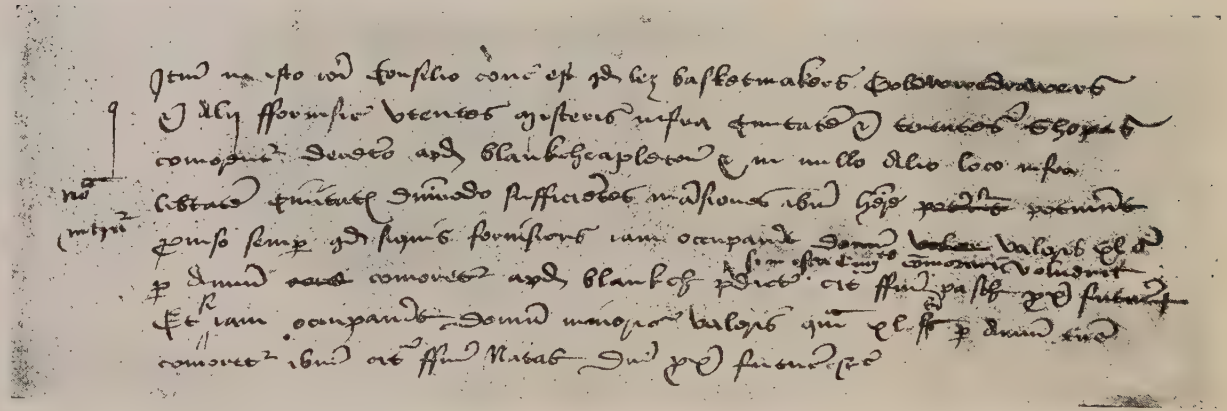
This list seems to have been prepared by the Brewers as a guide for letting their hall, at a period when many of the Companies and Fraternities did not possess halls of their own.

There is an early reference to the Basket-

* Brewers' Company, Court Minutes from 1418 to 1440, fol. 2.

† A facsimile of this record and translation giving the names of the Crafts, will be found in "The Gilds and Companies of London," 1908 (Unwin).

FACSIMILE OF THE ORDER OF COMMON COUNCIL OF 12TH OCTOBER, 3 EDWARD IV. (A.D. 1463).



(*Reproduced by kind permission of the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London.*)

To face page 7.

makers in an Order of Common Council, 12th October, 3 Edward IV. (A.D. 1463),* of which the following is a transcript :—

Item in isto comuni Consilio concessum est quod lez basketmakers goldwiredrawers et alii forinsici utentes misteris infra civitatem et tenentes shopas comorentur decetero apud blankcheapletone et in nullo alio loco infra liberatem civitatis dummodo sufficientes mansiones ibidem habere potuerint proviso semper quod siquis forinsicus jam occupaverit domum valoris xl$\bar{s}$ per annum comoretur apud blankch [apletone] predictum citra festum Pasche proximo futurum si in ista civitate commorari voluerit Et si jam occupaverit domum minoris valoris quam xl$\bar{s}$ per annum tunc comoretur ibidem citra festum Natalis domini proximo futurum, etc.†

[*Translation.*—Also at that Common Council it was agreed that the basketmakers, gold-wire drawers, and other foreigners ‡ practising crafts within the City and holding shops, should thenceforth reside at Blanche Appleton and at no other place within the liberty of the City, so long as sufficient houses should there be available, provided always, that if any foreigner now occupy a house of the annual value of 40*s.*, he shall take up his abode at Blanche Appleton aforesaid before the feast of Easter next coming if he wishes to reside in this City; and if he now occupy a house of lesser annual value than 40*s.*, then he shall take up his abode there before the feast of the Lord's Nativity next coming, etc.]

This old manor (in the parish of St. Katherine Coleman, in the Ward of Aldgate) derived its name from the lands of Blanch Appleton, and is

* A facsimile of this record in the City Books is given opposite. The Order is mentioned by Bohun in "Privilegia Londini," 1723, 3rd ed. pp. 160–161.

† Journal 7, fol. 43; *cf.* Letter Book L., fol. 20. ‡ *Vide* p. 10.

shown in the corrupt form of "Blanck Chepelton," in a descriptive map of London drawn by Radulphus Aggas, in the time of Queen Elizabeth.* In the early part of the nineteenth century, some trace of the locality was to be found in the more corrupt form of "Blind Chapel Court," situated at the north-eastern end of Mark Lane.

Early mention of the manor is found in a deed, † dated A.D. 1177, as follows:—

> Confirmation by Robert de Valoniis of the grant which David de Cornhella, and Robert his brother made to the canons of Holy Trinity, London, of their land of Blanchesapeltuna which is in his soke ‡ of the said city, rendering him therefor 4*d.* at Mid Lent, yearly for socage, and for this day they have given him one mark of silver in gersum. §

At an early period, part of the demesne was in the possession of the family of Roos of Hamelake, and part in the possession of the Bohuns (Earls of Hereford); but on the division of the estate of the last Earl in 1421, his portion of the property was allotted to his grandchild, Henry V.‖

Stow, in his "Survey of London," ¶ writes:—

---

* *Circa* 1560. A reproduction is published with Besant's "London in the Time of the Tudors," 1904.

† Ancient Deeds (A. 7295), preserved in the Public Records Office.

‡ A liberty or privilege of jurisdiction within a certain precinct (A. S. sok.)

§ A fine extracted from a tenant on the transfer of his holding (A. S. gœrsum).

‖ Parl. Rolls. vol. iv. 136.

¶ Stow's "Survey" (Thoms), 1842, p. 57.

I read in the 13th Edward I. that a lane behind the said Blanch Apelton was granted by the King to be inclosed and shut up. This Blanch Apelton was a manor belonging to Sir Thomas Roos of Hamelake, knight, the 7th of Richard II., standing at the north-east corner of Mart Lane, so called of a privilege sometime enjoyned to keep a mart there, long since discontinued, and therefore foregotton, so as nothing remaineth for memory but the name of Mart Lane, and that corruptly termed Marke Lane.* I read that in the third of Edward IV. all basketmakers, wire-drawers and other foreigners were permitted to have shops in this manor of Blanch Apelton and not elsewhere within this city or suburbs thereof.

References to this long-forgotten manor of old London are rarely met with, but it is recorded that during the disturbed times of Edward IV., Sir Geoffrey Gates and a body of miscreants plundered the houses of the foreign traders in Blanch Appleton. On May Day, 1517,† the London apprentices showed their ill-feeling towards the aliens in the locality by breaking the windows and doors of their houses; the disturbance being ultimately quelled by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen. Ten pairs of gallows were nevertheless erected, one at Blanch Appleton and the others in different parts of the City; but only the ringleader suffered death, the rest being pardoned by the King on the intercession of the Lord Mayor.

By ancient custom, only persons free of the

* John Bagford, the antiquary, expressed the opinion that Mart Lane was a place where the Romans and, not improbably, the ancient Britons, used to barter with other nations.

† Known as Evil May Day.

City were allowed to sell any wares by retail, or occupy a shop within the City or the Liberties thereof; a privilege which had been confirmed by several Acts of Parliament. Edward III., by Charter granted in the 15th year of his reign, ordained that if any customs in the City involved hardship, the Mayor and Aldermen with the assent of the Commonalty might remedy the same. This monarch encouraged the settlement of foreign artificers in London, although his action infringed civic rights. In the following reign restrictions against foreigners were again made, though the subsequent action of Henry IV. in limiting the number of apprentices, no doubt helped to increase the alien immigration.

The Order of Common Council made in the reign of Edward IV., restricting the quarters of the Basket-makers to Blanch Appleton, appears to have been somewhat in the nature of a compromise, for, while allowing "foreigners" to remain in the City, it located them in a district which had apparently long been set apart for aliens.

Whether the word "foreigner" in this Order is used in the popular signification of the term, or in the technical sense of non-freemen, is somewhat uncertain. In their petition of 1569 for ordinances, the English Basket-makers complained of the strangers and aliens born out of the realm, who, for a *long time past* had exercised the trade of basket-making in the City, and the

Basket-makers of Blanch Appleton probably included a large number of aliens. Some time later they appear to have imported their wares, for "baskets from Holland" were in the list of goods to which the London apprentices took objection in the riot of 1517.

The foreign element was largely increased during the Reformation period and many Basket-makers came over from the Netherlands to escape religious persecution. These qualified as denizens and were given quarters in Eastcheap,* several of them being employed by the English Basket-makers. The conditions of the trade were no doubt considerably influenced by this influx of alien craftsmen, and at the time of the establishment of the Company, and for a considerable period after, the foreign Basket-maker was much in evidence. The preamble to the Company's Ordinance (No. 17) of 1569 states that the freemen were not able to supply the City with sufficient baskets unless they employed "foreigners and aliens" to work for them or had an adequate number of apprentices. This Ordinance permitted the freemen to keep such "foreigners and strangers" in their employ for five years, but no longer. On the expiration of the time it was found still impossible to meet the demand for baskets without employing foreigners, while in the subsequent Ordinances, granted in 1585, the freemen of the Company were allowed to retain indefinitely all the

* *Vide* Strype's "Annals of the Reformation," vol. iv. p. 569.

foreigners and strangers they had then in their employ, but were not to engage any more. By the Ordinances of 1610, freemen of the Company were not permitted to buy any wares from foreigners except such as "from ancient times" they had been accustomed to purchase from them, namely, "covered baskets, flaskets, stake maunds and timber ware."

The English Basket-makers (who had either obtained licence to remain in the City or had secured the right by taking up their freedom through a Company) lived in the parishes of St. Margaret Pattens and St. Andrew Hubbard about the close of the fifteenth century. This is the earliest trace of their place of abode. On the 22nd October, 1538, they were ordered by the Common Council to leave the City on account of the danger from fire caused by their alleged negligence. This order was not immediately enforced, for on the 9th September, 1539, the Basket-makers entered into recognisance not to imperil the City by fire,* and on the 23rd September of the same year, they presented a petition† to the Court of Aldermen for licence to occupy their houses "as they did before." This petition was taken into consideration and it was agreed to suspend the order for six months. There is no record of its being carried out at the expiration of that time, nor any further reference to the Act of Common

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* *Vide* p. 21.

† *Vide* pp. 21 and 22.

Council until the 15th June, 1540, and the 25th October, 1541 ; on both these occasions it was ordered to be put immediately into execution. From the latter date there are no further references to the Basket-makers in the City Records until the 8th January, 1565/6,* when the Chamberlain was directed to call them together and ascertain whether they desired to be established as a Company.

During the long period in which they resided in the City, the only charge brought against them was that of indifference to the danger from fire ; but the inflammable nature of their wares and the prevailing conditions of the times should be taken into consideration. Several Basket-makers were appointed Churchwardens of the parishes in which they resided, and the records show that they were men of integrity and useful members of the community.

Some interesting entries are found in an old Vestry Minute Book of St. Margaret Pattens. The earliest—a record of the gift of an altar cloth by a Basket-maker's wife—appears in an inventory of additional ornaments "gotten and labored to be hadd for the same Churche use" during the period 1st March, 1479, to 7th March, 1486 :—

It an nodr Awter cloth of byrds eyen werke w^{t} a crosse in the mydds And writt und^{r} neith of the gyft of Bowenpersons wyff baskett maker.

---

* *Vide* p. 27, and note (*re* date), p. 126.

In the same book is recorded the receipt of £10, the bequest of a Basket-maker in the year 1494 :—

It̊ x^{t} s^{t} off money By ye beqwest off Wyllyam Johnson basketmaker upon whos sowle Jhs have mercy Gyvyn ye x yere off ye regne off Kynge harry the vijth That tyme beynge Wardens off ye seyd Seynt Marget paresche John Wright and John Jeffrey.

Other extracts from the Accounts of the Churchwardens of St. Margaret Pattens are :—

St. John Baptist 23 Hen. VII. to Xmas following, John Jeffrey and John Smyth Churchwardens.

Itm̄ Receyved of lodowyke * for the rent of a teñt† in Seynt Dunstans ꝑisshe for midsom^{r} q^{r} ij^{s} iij^{d}

24 Henry VII. (Xmas).—Xmas, 1 Henry VIII., John Jeffrey and John Smyth Churchwardens.

Receyts of rentts in the pareche of Saynt Dunstans.
Itm̄ Rec^{d} of lodyweke basketmaker for a yerys rent at mechelm̄s . . . . . viij^{s}

Rental whilst John Moncase and Richard Browne were Churchwardens—7 Henry VIII.

St. Dunstans parishe.

Jasper Basketmaker for a teñt w^{t}in the Aley yeldeing by yere . . . . . viij^{s}

Christmas 1517 to Christmas 1518, John Geffery and Symond Goldesmyth Churchwardens.

---

* Ludwig was a basket-maker.
† Tenement.

Itm̄ Receyved of Jasper Baskettmaker for iij q̄rters ended at Midsomer aforesaide . . iij^{s}
Itm̄ paied for a newe key to a Basketmakers house in saint Dunstans pisshe . . . iij^{d}

In the Churchwardens' Accounts several items relating to the purchase of baskets occur, showing the different purposes for which they were used in the Church, and the price of the wares in the sixteenth century:—

A.D. 1508–1509.

Itm̄ payde for a holly brede basket . . ij^{d}

A.D. 1511–1512.

Itm̄ paied for a Baskett for the Chirche . . i^{d}

A.D. 1523–1524.

P^{d} for a Basket to put in the plate . . vj^{d}
P^{d} for a lok for the same Basket . . . iiij^{d}

A.D. 1563–1564.

P^{d} ffor ij lytill Baskets to cary earthe . . iiij^{d}

A.D. 1567–1568.

Paid for a dust Baskyt . . . . . iij^{d}

A.D. 1574–1575.

More paid for a dust baskett. . . . . iij^{d}

A.D. 1575–1576.

Itm̄ payde for a basket . . . . . iiij^{d}

The Vestry Books of St. Andrew Hubbard also contain references to several members of the craft. In the Churchwardens' Accounts for the year 1527, there is an entry of the burial of a Basket-maker's wife, as follows:—

In ꝑm we charge us reseved at the berynge of
Willm Smythes wiffe the baskyt maker . vj^{s}

The husband did not apparently long survive the death of his consort, for in the same account is recorded the sum received for burying the Basket-maker :—

Rs at the berynge of Wyllm Smythe hem selfe vj^{s}

In the year 1587, the following particulars of the burial of a Basket-maker are recorded :—

Receyved for the Buringe of Cornelius Adrian-
son, ground and knell and the ꝑsons dutye viij^{s}

The Vestry Books of St. Andrew Hubbard which have been preserved, date from 1454, though in the early entries the occupations of the Churchwardens are not stated. Jasper Arnold is recorded Churchwarden for the two years 1530–31, and 1546–47. He was one of the twelve Basket-makers who, on the 9th September, 1539, entered into recognisance with the Chamberlain not to imperil the City by fire,* and in 1540 obtained a writ from Henry VIII. directing the Lord Mayor to allow him to carry on the trade of basket-making in the city.† He was evidently a man of some influence, and, if the order of the Court of Aldermen of 1541 to expel the Basket-makers from the City had been put into execution, he could have claimed the distinction of being the only Basket-maker residing in the City at the time.

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* *Vide* p. 21. † *Vide* pp. 23, 24.

Other Churchwardens of St. Andrew Hubbard of a later date, who followed the occupation of basket-making, were :—

Adryan Adryanson,* 1578–9 and 1589–90.
Richard Robinson, 1580–82 and 1589–90.
John Johnson,† 1584–86 and 1594–96.
John Olyfe,‡ 1586–88 and 1596–98.
Robert Wheatlye, 1594–96.

The names of the first three occur in the list of the eleven Basket-makers enrolled in the City Books on the establishment of the Company.§ Adryan Adryanson was one of the Wardens of the Company, and John Olyfe was probably the John Olyff translated from the Carpenters' Company on the 12th January, 1569/70.‖

Mention is made of a Basket-maker in the Records of the Church of St. Mary-at-Hill. The reference occurs in an Inventory supplied to the Lord Mayor in connection with the Royal Commissioner's enquiries respecting church plate, etc., in 1552–3, as follows :—

ffirst, to Jesper,¶ the basket maker, vij o a halfe of alliblaster, at ij^{s} iiij^{d} le o, Svm̄ xvij^{s} vj^{d}.**

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* This name appears several times as one of the auditors of the churchwardens' accounts.

† Co-churchwarden William Redmer, Butcher.

‡ Co-churchwarden Barnaby Bristow, Turner.

§ *Vide* p. 41.

‖ *Vide* p. 50.

¶ Probably identical with Jasper Arnold. *Vide* pp. 16, 21, 23, 24, and Appendix J.

** Guildhall Library MS. $1\frac{2}{2}\frac{3}{3}\frac{2}{2}$ fol., 110^{a}.

In addition to the Order of Common Council of 1463, the City Records contain several references to the Basket-makers of a later date, relating chiefly to the danger from fire caused by the inflammability of their goods. These Records (distinguished by the *regnal year* as well as the civil year) are here set forth in chronological order:—

GRESHAM, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 18 JUNE, 30 HENRY VIII. (1538).

Itm̃ the byll of the chyrche wardeyns of Saynt Androwe hubbert ageynst the basketmakers was redde. And day ys gyven to theym the next coʳte day of saynt Peters day next comyng And to make reporte to thys coʳte of a convenyent place where the sayd basketmakers may dwell.*

GRESHAM, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER, 30 HENRY VIII. (1538).

Itm̃ that the basketmakers shall dwell wᵗyn the suburbes of london & not wᵗyn thys Cytie.†

GRESHAM, MAIOR.

COMMON COUNCIL 22 OCTOBER, 30 HENRY VIII. (1538).

At thys Comon Cownsayll bycawse that mysfortune of ffyer hath chauncyd by the neglygence of the basket makers of london yt ys agreed that none of the basketmakers aforesayd shall dwell wᵗyn the walles of thys Cytye but yn some other convenyent places owt of thys Cytye on thyssyde the feast of the Natyvytie of Saynt John baptist next comyng.‡

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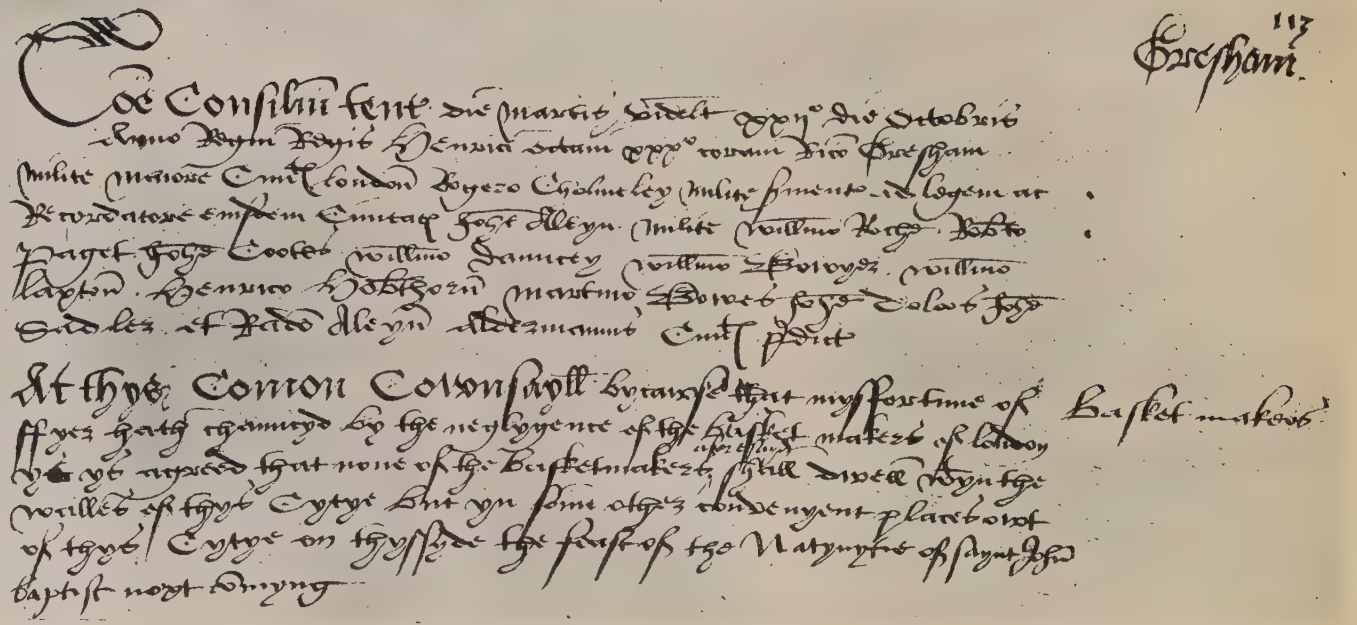
* Rep. 10, fol. 35b. † Rep. 10, fol. 53b.

‡ Journal 14, fol. 113. A facsimile of this Act is given opposite.

It is evident from the subsequent records that this Act of Common Council was not put into execution at the time. *Vide* pp. 24, 25.

FACSIMILE OF THE ACT OF COMMON COUNCIL, 22ND OCTOBER, 30 HENRY VIII. (A.D. 1538).



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To face page 18.

This Order was doubtless made in consequence of the disastrous fire which took place in the Basket-makers' quarters earlier in the same year. Stow * reports the incident in the following terms :—

In the parish of St. Margaret Pattens on 27th May, 1538, amongst the basket makers a great and sudden fire happened in the night season, which within the space of three hours consumed more than a dozen houses and nine persons were burnt to death there.

Wriothesley in his "Chronicles" thus refers to the calamity :—

Allso the 27th daye of Maye beinge the Monday in the Rogation weeke, was a great fyre in St. Margarett Pattyns parishe amonge the baskett makers, where were burnt and perished in three houres a dossin howses and 9 persons of men, women, and children, cleane burnt to death, which was a pyteous sight. †

Several of the houses burnt belonged to Balliol College, Oxford. In the College archives certain tenements in this parish are stated to have been given by Robert Beamond, and it is added, that by decree of the Masters and Fellows in the year 1538, "it was granted to Lady Ann Danvers under their common seal that the Office of the Dead be said every year for the good of her soul : and for her benefactions on account of her gift of £30 for the repair of the houses

* "Survey of London" (Thoms), 1842, p. 79.

† Wriothesley's Chronicle : Camden Society, N.S., No. 11, p. 81.

in the parish of St. Margaret Pattens, which had been much injured by fire." *

FORMAN, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

Itm̃ for the matter betwene bayly colledge of Oxonford for theyre howses burned yn the pysshe of saynt Androwe yn estchepe of london & one of theyre tenãts Robt Curson & Thomas Atkyns gent be appoynted by thys corte to here ye sayd matter & make report thereof unto thys corte.†

Balliol College possessed property in the parish of St. Andrew Hubbard in the time of Edward III. In the College records, the houses are stated to be situated in "Smith's-lane, alias St. Andrew Hoberds-lane," and in the reign of Henry VIII. they were tenanted chiefly by Basket-makers. Some trouble appears to have arisen between them and the owners in connection with the occupation of the houses re-erected after the fire. Ultimately it will be seen that the College authorities evoked the aid of the Crown to obtain possession of the property. ‡

FORMAN, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

Itm̃ yt ys agreed that ye basket makers shalbe here upon tuysday next comyng to pvyde some other convenyent

* Paravicini, "Early History of Balliol College," 1891, p. 267.
† Rep. 10, fol. 118b. ‡ *Vide*, p. 23.

places owt of thys Cytie accordyng to an Act of comon cownsayll * made thereof t^ee Gressham Jornal fo. 113°.†

FORMAN, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

Itm̃ the basketmakers Edward Haseley yn estchepe Roger Norrys at bredstrete Thomas Dent yn bredstrete Willyā Ellys yn oldefysshestrete Cuthbert Remys yn brodstrete Gylbert Godfrey at byllyngsgate Jasp Arnold,‡ John Mathew,§ John Rogers, Cornelyus Johnson, Segar Derykson, ‖ Arnold Gyles ‖ at Saynt Androwes yn estchepe & the cõen cownsayll made the xxij day of October the xxx yere of kyng henry the eight t^e gressham fo. 113 ¶ They & e^ry of theym by theyre selff knowledge to owe unto george medley Chamblayn of the Cytye of london x^t s^t to be payed by way of Recogny^s The condicon hereof ys suche if they & e^ry of theym avoyde all stuffe belongyng to theyre mystery of basketmakers aforesayd out of theyr howses afore the feast of Saynt Michael the archangell next comyng And also in the meane tyme kepe sauffely & surely theyre fyre so that by meanes thereof any hurte come not unto any of the Inhātants of thys Cytie that than etc or ells etc.**

FORMAN, MAIOR.

TUESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

Itm̃ a peticon of the basket makers Inglysshemen to have lycens to occupye as they dyd afore & answered unto

* 22nd Oct., 1538, *vide* p. 18.

† Rep. 10, fol. 119b.

‡ Dutch alien (Denizen) Churchwarden of St. Andrew Hubbard, *vide* pp. 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, and Appendix J.

§ Probably identical with John Matthew, referred to on p. 23.

‖ Dutch aliens (Denizens).

¶ *Vide* p. 18.

** Rep. 10, fol. 120b ; Letter Book P. fol. 198b.

theym that they shall labor unto ye comon cownsayll that they may sell theyre wares wtyn thys Cytie and make the same wtyn thys Cytie whyche shalbe on sonday next comyng.*

FORMAN, MAIOR.

COMMON COUNCIL 28 SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

Itm the petycon of the Basketmakers Inglyshemen for selling of their Basketts & Weate Roddes in theire houses wtin this Cytie and for Whyte roddes to be layed in owtward places wtoute the Cytie wtout dunger & pyll of ffyer was redde wch matt ys remytted by this coen counseill to the Mayere & Aldren of london to be determyned by theim after their sad dyscrecons And the same ordre so by theim to be taken to remaine in full strength and vertue.†

FORMAN, MAIOR.

(?) SEPTEMBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

At thys corte yt ys agreed that the basketmakers shall have respyte for pvydyng of theyre howses & removyng of theyre stuffe aswell for fyer for the space of one half yere nowe next comyng & they may sell theyre wares yn theyre howses yn case the comon sayll woll agree unto the same.‡

FORMAN, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 31 HENRY VIII. (1539).

It the matter concnyng the basketmakers shalbe harde the next corte day.§

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* Rep. 10, fol. 135b.
† Letter Book P. fol. 196b ; Journal 14, fol. 158.
‡ Rep. 10, fol. 137.
§ Rep. 10, fol. 145b.

HOLLES, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 6 APRIL, 31 HENRY VIII. (1540).

Itm̃ the M^r & scolers of the Coledge of balyall of Oxford demaunded of John Mathew of london basketmaker the rent due by hym upon Thursday next & the sayd Mathew w^t hys cownsayll to be here upon tuysday next comyng.*

HOLLYS, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE, 32 HENRY VIII. (1540).

It. the Kyngs most gracyous cm̃yssyon for the matter of the M^r of bayly colledge of oxonford & hys felowes & John Mathewe was redde & agreed that y^e same shalbe fynally det̃mined by thys co^rte.†

HOLLYS, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 15 JUNE, 32 HENRY VIII. (1540).

Itm̃ the kyngs com̃yssyon for the matter conc̃nyng the matter of ballyold coledge yn oxenford & John Mathewe basketmaker was redde & all ye circũstances of the same well pceyved by thys co^rte & agreed that the sayd maister & felowes shall entre imedyately ynto theyre owne howse newly buylded by them at theyr great costs & charges & pesibly & quyetly enjoy ye same w^tout Interrupcon of the sayd Mathewe. And that the lawe made for the basketmakers shalbe put yn due and effectuall execucon according to ye act of coen c̃sayl te^e gressham sen̄ fo. 113. ‡

HOLLES, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 8 JULY, 32 HENRY VIII. (1540).

Itm̃ the wyfe of Jasper Arnolde, basketmaker dely^yd unto my lorde mayer our so^vaigne lord the kyngs writt

* Rep. 10, fol. 171. † Rep. 10, fol. 159.
‡ Rep. 10, fol. 164.

directed unto hys lordship & to my masters the aldermen & shreves of thys Cytie raytyng in the same theffecte of the statute made A° xv° of o^r seyd so^vaigne lords most gracyous raygne con^cnyng Strũngers Artyfycers inhītyng thys Cytye & what jõneymen & other s̃ũnts they may kepe. And fynally comaundyng my seyd lorde mayer & hys worshipful brethern aforeseyd peaceably to pmytt the seyd Jasp to use and exercyse hys seyd Crafte within the seyd Cytie.*

Described in the Patent Roll as a "basket-maker from parts of Brabant under the obedience of the Emperor," Jasper Arnold † came to England and was made a free denizen on the 12th December, 1534.‡ He obtained licence from the Crown to exercise his craft and, from an assessment made on the 30th April, 1549,§ he appears to have employed eight journeymen.

ROCHE, MAIOR.

TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 33 HENRY VIII. (1541).

Itm̃ for the matter con^cnyng the basketmakers of this Cytie yt is agreyd that my lorde mayer shall cause the Acte of coen counsayll thereof made to be putt in due & spedye execuc̃on in e^vy poynt. ‖

The Act of Common Council referred to in the above record was made on the 22nd October, 1538,¶ and from the tenor of the order of the

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* Rep. 10, fol. 166b.

† *Vide* pp. 16, 17, 21, and Appendix J.

‡ Patent Rolls, 26 Henry VIII., Public Records Office.

§ Lay Subsidies, 3 Edward VI., *vide* Appendix J. (p. 162).

‖ Rep. 10, fol. 226b.

¶ *Vide* p. 18. Also referred to in the Records of 4th September, 1539, and 15th June, 1540, pp. 21, 23.

25th October, 1541, it was no doubt enforced on that occasion. There are no further references to the Basket-makers in the City Records for a quarter of a century. The subsequent entry under date 8th January, 1565/6, refers to the Basket-makers *of the City*, and, no record having been found of their reinstatement, the order apparently became a dead-letter after the lapse of some few years.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPANY.

The only records in the Company's possession referring to the constitutional settlement of the Guild are the petition of the Basket-makers of 1569 for "rules and orders" and a transcript of the ordinances granted by the Court of Aldermen; these are found in an old parchment book* preserved from the Great Fire. The few earlier references to matters leading up to the establishment of the Company have been obtained from the City Records.

In their petition for Ordinances, the Basket-makers referred to their previous "suit," in which they had prayed that not only those of their number who were free of other Companies, but also those following the trade of basket-making who were not free of the City, might be united and made a Company to be called "the Basket-makers of the City of London." The proceedings commenced in January, 1565/6, when the Chamberlain was desired by the civic authorities to confer with the Basket-makers with a view to their being enfranchised in their

* *Vide* p. 123.

own craft. A few months later they were requested to decide whether they would be established as "a Company of themselves" or united to some other Company.

CHAMPION, MAIOR.

8 JANUARY, 8 ELIZABETH ($156\frac{5}{6}$).

Item yt was ordered that the Chamberlyn shall somon and confer w^th^ the Basketmakers of this Cytie now beyenge fremen of the same Cytie and lerne and understande of theim whether they will become freemen of the same Cytie or not and what they will geve for the fredome thereof and make reporte unto this Court for their answers and mynds therein w^th^ convenyent spede.*

The question put to the Basket-makers who were free of the City, "whether they will become freemen of the City," appears somewhat obscure in the above record. The explanation is, that the free Basket-makers alluded to were members of existing Companies † and were to be asked whether they wished to become free of a new Company of their own. In the following extract it will be noted that the English Basket-makers, who were not free of the City, were also consulted on the question of the establishment of the Company.

CHAMPION, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 13 JUNE, 8 ELIZABETH (1566).

Item M^r^ Avenon and M^r^ Chamberlyn Aldermen and the Chamberlyn were this day assigned by the Court here to

* Rep. 15, fol. 513b. † Chiefly of the Butchers' Company.

travayle w^th^ the englishe * Basketmakers of this Citie not being fre of the Citie and lerne whether they will desire rather to be a companye of theym selfes or els be united to some other Companye And what Companie that is And to make report thereof here w^th^ convenyent spede.†

At this period a few English Basket-makers were exercising their trade in the City, although not free thereof; this privilege is mentioned in the record of the 23rd September, 1539,‡ on which occasion they petitioned the Court of Aldermen for "licence to occupy as they did before." It cannot be ascertained when the civic authorities first made the above concession to the English Basket-makers. Probably this old privilege gave rise to the claim that the Company had previously existed by prescription or ancient right.§

CHAMPION, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 8 ELIZABETH (1566).

Item the wardens of the Bochers have the next court daye to make pleyẽ & certen report whether theyr hole company wyll assent and agree to have all suche Basket-makers as are now free of their sayd company to be taken by this court from theym and to be unyted and incorporated to the other basketmakers of this cytye beinge erected and made by autoryte of this co^r^te a company and felowshipp of themselfs or not.‖

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* At this period several alien Basket-makers were established in the City.

† Rep. 16, fol. 60b.

‡ *Vide* p. 21.

§ *Vide* pp. 96, 101.

‖ Rep. 16, fol. 106.

CHAMPION, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 8 ELIZABETH (1566).

Item the wardens of the company of the bochers of this Cytye dyd this day make their reporte here to the court accordinge to the order of the same court here taken 19 instat Sept that both they and their sayd hole company are well contentyd and pleased to depte w^t^ all the baskettmakers beinge ffree of there sayd company so that they the sayd basketmakers be hereafter erected unyted and made a p^r^vate and distinct company of them selfs by the name of basketmakers, or els the sayd Wardeyns desyryd that they the sayd basketmakers may be holye restoryd and unyted ageyne to them the sayd company of the bochers in case they shall eyther not be made a company of theym selfs or ells shall fortune shortly to be dyssolvyd agayne and not to remayne a company of them selfs w^ch^ was gunted to the seid wardens or cause to be redelyvered.*

DRAPER, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER, 9 ELIZABETH (1566).

Item it was this day ordered by the Court here that the Towne clerk w^th^ the advise of som of the lerned Councell of the Cytie shall devise and draw a boke agaynst the next courte here to be holden after Xristmas next for the corporacon and unytyng of the fremen of this Cytye and other Englishmen also Basketmakers into a felowshipe or companye of this Cytie by my Lord Mayer and Court of Aldermen in such sort as dyvs other of the same Cytie ar alredy incorporated.†

DRAPER, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 13 MARCH, 9 ELIZABETH ($156\frac{6}{7}$).

Att this cort M^r^ Alder Ducket was assigned to joine w^t^ M^r^ Ald Avenon and the Chamberleyn for the

* Rep. 16, fol. 112b ; Letter Book V. fol. 49b. *Vide* pp. 49, 50.

† Rep. 16, fol. 149b ; Letter Book V. fol. 68b.

incorporatinge of the englishe basketmakers of this citie and the towne clerke appointed to attend upon them as he conveniently maye.*

ROWE, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 3RD MAY, II ELIZABETH (1569).

The matter betwene the Tournors and Basketmakers is referred to the hearing and examynacon of Mr Alderman Avenon and Mr Aldrãn Barneham & Mr Chamberleyn and they to make report.†

Waller, in his "General Description of all Trades," written in 1747,‡ tells us that the Basketmakers' wares were largely sold in the Turners' shops and that the Turners were the principal dealers in baskets after the makers. This practice being no doubt of old standing, it is possible that the "matter" referred to in the above extract related to some objection raised by the Turners in connection with the establishment of the Company. No further reference to the subject has been found in the City Records.

ROWE, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 26 JULY, II ELIZABETH (1569).

Itm̃ this daye it is thought mete and convenient by this courte that the basketmakers of this Citie shalbe incorporated and made a companye and have ꝯtaine ordn̄nces devised by this house for there goṽnment and it is agreed that a certain nomber that nowe use makinge of basketts shalbe made free and paye suche fynes as Mr Chamb̃leyn

* Rep. 16, fol. 176. † Rep. 16, fol. 471b.

‡ *Vide* Appendix A.

shall take order w^th^ them for and M^r^ Chamb̄leyn shall travell w^th^ them betwene this and the nexte courte and then to make reporte to this courte what he hath don therein.*

ROWE, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 28 JULY, II ELIZABETH (1569).

This daye S^r^ Willm̄ Chester knight M^r^ Alderman Nicholas and M^r^ Chamb̄leyn are appointed to conferre upon good ordn̄nces towchinge the baskettmakers that are nowe to be incorporated.†

ROWE, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER, II ELIZABETH (1569).

At this courte the boke devysed for the incorporac̃on of the Basketmakers of this Cytie was redd & repulsed & misleked as it is nowe penned and redeliv̄ed to my L Mayors owne hands. ‡

ROWE, MAIOR.

22 SEPTEMBER, II ELIZABETH (1569).

This daye it is agreed that the booke of the incorporacoñ of the basketmakers in sorte as nowe it is shall passe under suche ordn̄nces & condic̃ons as are therein conteyned and agreed the same to be entreed as followeth:

To the right honorable Sir Thomas Rowe Knight, Lord Maior of the Cittie of London And to the right wor^ll^ bretheren thaldreñ of the same.

Most humblie beseechen yo^r^ good Lord^pp^ yo^r^ dayli Orators A. B. C. D. &c. Basketmakers of the Cittie of London the Queenes Ma^ties^ naturall lovinge and obedient

* Rep. 16, fol. 492b; Letter Book V. fol. 246.
† Rep. 16, fol. 493.
‡ Rep. 16, fol. 495b.

Subiecte borne within this her highenes Realme of England. That where aswell yo^{r} said Orators as diverse other Strangers and Aliens borne out of this Realme have not onelie within this honorable Cittie, but also in diverse other places of this Realme of longe tyme used thoccupac̃on and Crafte of Basketmakinge. And forasmuche as before this tyme noe lawe ne good orders have been had or devised for good wares or stuffe to be had and made in the same crafte and occupac̃on ne yet any provision or poinshm^{t} have been devised to meete with deceipte excepte in of late both in sleighte makinge of the said wares aswell in this Cittie as in the Countrie. And in evill and unseasonable stuffe wherewithall the same wares have been made the utter ruine and decay of good workmanshipp in the same Craft hath thereby ensewed and is daylie more and more like to ensew and followe unless speedie remedie therefore mighte be had and provided. Yo^{r} said poore beeseechers therefore much Lamentinge the same and willinge asmuch as in them lyeth the redresse thereof not knoweing of themselves how to do the same without the ayde and helpe of yo^{r} good Lo^{p} and Maistershippes have latelie been most humble Suito^{s} to this hono^{ble} Courte for thãmendment of those evills and mischiefs In avoydyng whereof it hath pleased the same upon the humble suite of yo^{r} said Orators to grante not onelie that divers of yo^{r} said Orators usinge the said Crafte and Occupac̃on within this Cittie being alreadie ffree of other Companyes of the same but also diverse others of them being not free of the said Cittie using notwithstanding the same crafte and occupacion of Baskettmaking within the said Cittie and Liberties thereof should be transferred and made free all of one Crafte Companie and ffellowshipp called the Basketmakers of the Cittie of London to the ende that by some good rules and orders to be had and devised by this hono^{ble} Courte to be observed and kept amonge them in the same Crafte and Companie better wares and stuffe hereafter might be had and made for the service of the Queens highnes Subjects within this hono^{ble} Cittie, and so

consequentlie by the good example thereof in other places of the Realme. May it therefore please yo^r said Lo^p and Masterships for the amendment of those enormities and for the better service of the Comon Weale in that behalfe and for the more better good rule and goverment hereafter to be had in the same crafte and occupacon to grannte and establish these Articles underwritten in the same Companie to be firmlie observed and kepte for ever upon the paines in the same Articles comprized And yo^r said Beseechers according to their most bounden Duties shall daylie pray to Almightie God for the Long Continuance of yo^r said Lo^p and Mastershipps in honor and worshipp.

Anno 1569.

(1) FIRSTE that men enfrannchesed in the said crafte and occupacon of Basketmakers of the Cittie of London for the tyme beinge Maye lawfullie hereafter once in everie two years Betweene the feaste of St James and St Barthue the Appostles, assemble themselves togeather in a place to them necessarie and convenient within the said Cittie, and there to chuse and electe of themselves two hable menn free of the said crafte for the space of two whole yeares then next followinge. And the same twoe Wardens, soe chosen, within eighte days then next following there said eleccon, shalle be sworen in the Courte to be holden in the utter * Chamber of the Guildhall, before the Lorde Maior and Aldren of the same Cittie, for the tyme being, trewlie to doo and execute such things as shall appertaine and belonge unto their office, according to the good rules and ordenñce to them to be allowed and approved by the same Courte like as the usage and custome is within the said Cittie, that the Wardens of other Companies doe upon pain of v^l, thone halfe thereof to be applied to thuse of the Chamber of the said Cittie, And that other halfe to the Comon boxe of the poore within the house of

* *i.e.* outer.

Christchurche And that if the same Wardens, being thus elected and sworen, or either of them, happen to die within the same two yeares that they should stande Wardens, that then the good men enfranchised in the saide crafte may choose one or two others of the same crafte to supplie and serve in the steade and place of him or them so deceased, for the residue of the said two yeares.

(2) ITEM that within one moneth next after the chosinge of the new Wardens, at thend of everie two yeares in forme aforesaid, the oulde Wardens which occupied and stoode in thoffice the two yeres then next preceedinge, shall make and yielde upp their accompte unto the Wardens then chosen, and to three or fower other persones of the said crafte such as the said new Wardens shall appointe, and shall trulie answer, paye, and deliver unto the said new Wardens to the use of the same Companie all that which shalbe founde to remayne in their handes by that Accompte uppon paine of v^{l}, thone halfe thereof to be paied to the Chamber of the said Cittie And that other halfe to the Comon boxe of the said Crafte. And if the said Accompte be behinde, and not given upp and payment not made as is aforesaide, longer than one moneth, then the oulde Wardens soe faylinge of giving upp of their accompte, and making of payment accordinglie, without they have a reasonable excuse, shall pay for everie moneth, soe longe as their said accompte is not given upp after the chosing of the said new Wardens, and after the end of the first moneth, xl^{s}, to be devided & ymployed in forme aforesaid.

(3) ALSOE that all persones enfranchesed in the said crafte and occupacõn for the tyme being, at all tymes hereafter shall make good, stronge, and perfecte wares, belonging to the said crafte, well and workemanlike, wroughte with good and seasonable stuffe, without deceipte, uppon paine of forfeiture of the same wares to thuse of the Coïaltie of the said Cittie.

(4) ITEM that noe persone of the said crafte enfranchesed within the said Cittie, shall at any tyme hereafter, buy any wares belonging to the same crafte in the Countrie

alreadie made, nor any stuffe unwroughte, to make such ware withall, but such as shalle be good and lawfull wares strong and well wroughte, and good and seasonable stuffe, cutt and gathered in due season, uppon paine of forfeiture of the same to be imployed, thone halfe to the chamber of London, and thother halfe, to the comon boxe of the same crafte.

(5) ITEM that none enfranchesed in the said crafte shall hereafter buy any white roddes, to be occupied and made into wares belonging to the same crafte, excepte they be well seasoned, uppon pain of forfeiture of the same roddes, or the value thereof, thone halfe thereof to the use of the Chamber of London, and thother halfe to the Comon boxe of that fellowship.

(6) ITEM that noe persone, free of the said Companie, at any tyme hereafter, shall buye any roddes to be spente or made into wares belonging to the same crafte Except the same roddes be of good and lawfull bonde That is to saye, everie boundell of those roddes to have bonde of one yarde and one inch of compasse, to be well and faste bounde at leastwaies one foote from the greater ende of the saide roddes, uppon paine of forfeiture of all that stuffe to the uses aforesaid.

(7) ITEM that the Wardens of the said crafte and occupacon for the tyme being, having an Officer of my Lord Maiors with them, shall have full power at all tymes hereafter, to enter into the houses, warehouses, and shopps of all and singular persones whatsoever as well enfranchesed in the said crafte of Basketmakers as not enfranchesed, which at any tyme hereafter shall make or put to sale, within the said Cittie, suburbes, or libties thereof, any manner of wares belonging to the said crafte And to serche, viewe, and oversee all manner of basketts, fflasketts, Scrynes, Mawndes, and all other wares and stuffe, belonging to the said crafte of Basketmakers, aswell suche as shalle be broughte by forraine Basketmakers into the said Cittie or suburbes of the same for to be soulde, as such as shalbe made or put to sale by ffreemen of the same

crafte or by any other forraine or ffreeman of the same Cittie, within the said Cittie or suburbes thereof And all such wares and stuffe as they shall finde unlawfull, not well workmanlike, and stronglie made, and wroughte with good and seasonable stuffe, then they to forfeite the same And to bringe it to the Chamber of this Cittie at all tymes hereafter when the case shall require, as forfeite to the use of the Coïaltie of the said Cittie.

(8) ALSOE that the Wardens of the said crafte for the tyme being, and the Coïaltie of the same crafte, may have thuse and ordeine one or two meete persones of their said crafte to be their clark and Beadell for their Coẽn officers, to make summons in the name of there Wardens for the tyme beinge, and to execute other their lawfull precepts and commandments, as the case shall require. The same Clarke or Bedell to have such sallarie and wages as the said Wardens and Comynaltie for the tyme beinge shall accorde and agree amonge themselves, to be given and allowed unto the said Clarke or Bedell, quarterlie everie yeare. And that it shalle be lawfull for the said Wardens for the tyme beinge, to levie, collect, and receive of the ffreemen enfranchesed in the said Companie, a certaine competent sum of money by the Comynaltie of the same companie agreed uppon, by the name of quarteridge, towards the charges of the same Companie, like as in other Companies of this Cittie is used So that the same quarteridge exceede not viij^{d} a quarter for aney one persone.

(9) ALSOE that as often as any persone of the said crafte, hereafter shalbe deulie sum̃oned by the Clarke or Beadle of the said Crafte to appere before the Wardens of the said Crafte for the tyme being, at a certaine hower assigned, and appeareth not at the same hower appointed, or nere uppon, according to his summons That the said persone soe summoned, making defaulte, shall (unless hee have some reasonable excuse) paye to the Coen boxe of the said crafte iiij^{d} And if hee be the second tyme warned, and come not within one whole hower next after the said

second warninge (without a reasonable excuse) then to pay viij^{d} to the said coen boxe, at the will and discrecon of the said Wardens for the tyme beinge.

(10) ALSOE that if any persone of the said crafte and fellowshipp being an housholder, at any tyme hereafter, rebuke, chide or brawle with any other persone being an housholder of the same crafte, that then the same persone so offendinge, shall pay to the Chamber of the Guildhall and to the Comon boxe of the said Crafte equallie to be devided, vj^{s} viij^{d} And if any servaunte or apprntice of the same crafte offend or trespasse in such wise unto any housholder of the same crafte, that then the same servante or apprntice shalbe poinshed by the order and discrecon of the Wardens of the said Companie for the tyme beinge.

(11) ALSO if it fortune that any persone enfranchesed of the said crafte which shall happen to forfeite any some or somes of money, or any other things in theise orders or any of them comprised And then the same persone will not obey to pay the same money wthin three tymes askinge, if hee be of power That then the same persone for a pain in that behalfe shall paie the doble of the same money And if then he will not submitt himselfe to paye that, and be reasonablie ordered by his said Wardens Then the Wardens and Coïaltie of the said crafte shall complayne to the Lord Maior, or the chamblin for the tyme being And the persone so offending to be punnished after the discrecon of the Lord Mayor and Courte of Aldren or Chamberlaine.

(12) ALSOE that everie persone enfranchesed of the said crafte or occupacon within a yere after he taketh unto him any apprentice, shall psente the same apprentice unto the Wardens of the said crafte for the tyme being And shall then pay unto the comon boxe of the same crafte for everie such apprntice xij^{d} And that none of the said crafte shall at any time hereafter, take any apprntice for noe shorter or lesser terme then that the same apprntice coming out of his yeres shalbe fullie xxiiij yeres of age at thende of his said term And also that at thende of the

terme of apꝑnticehood of everie such apꝑntice, the same apꝑntice if hee hath trulie served his terme shalbe made free by his said Mr at the charge of his said Mr And that everie such apꝑntice, or hee be admitted into the francheses of the said Cittie, shalbe presented againe unto the said Wardens of the said crafte for the tyme being And there afore them shalbe sworen uppon the holie Evangelists of God to be contributorie to all manner of charges that shall belonge to the coĩaltie of the said crafte of Basketmakers to his power. And that hee shall not put himselfe in service to occupie the said Crafte with any persone or to teache thoccupacon, but onlie to such as shalbe enfranchesed in the Crafte above named, without the Wardens of the said Crafte for the tyme being give him leve, as longe as they will give him reasonable wages and put him on worke in the same Crafte, uppon paine of ymprisonement by the appointment of the Wardens and such further fyne as by the discrecon of the Lorde Maior, shalbe thought meate to be imployed as is afoesaide.

(13) ALSOE that noe persone enfranchesed of the said crafte of Basketmakers, shall take uppon him in any wise hereafter, to hier or take the house or shop of any other persone enfranchesed of the same crafte, over his heade by any manner of meanes privilie or appertlie, uppon payne of vl, to be paied thone halfe to the use of the Chamber of the Cittie of London and the other halfe to the Comon boxe of the same crafte.

(14) ALSOE that noe Apꝑntice which is, or hereafter shall happen to be bounde to any persone free of the said Crafte of Basketmakers, in any wise hereafter, be assigned, coṁitted, or suffered to serve any parte of the terme of his apꝑnticehoode with any persone, but onelie with such as have been enfranchesed of the said crafte of Basketmakers, soe always the same Wardens doe appoint him within one moneth after, a good sufficient Master to serve out the residue of his terme within that Companie, or else hee to be at libertie.

(15) ITEM that no persone enfranchesed in the said

crafte shall have or keepe at any tyme hereafter, above the nomber of fouer appntics, uppon paine to forfeite and paye for everie Appntice that hee or they shall have or keepe contrarie to this order xx^{s}, to be imployed as before is said, thone halfe to the Chamber of London, and thother halfe to the Comon boxe of the said Companie And yet neverthelesse, the persone so offending shall loase and forgoe his said Appntice, which said Appntice, shalbe sett over by the Wardens for the tyme beinge to some other apte persone of that Companie, to serve out his appnticehoode And that noe persone enfranchesed in the said Crafte shall have and keepe any Appntice, unlesse the same Maister be hable sufficientlie to teache and instructe the same Appntice in that arte and crafte, or doe cause the same Appntice to be sufficientlie taught and instructed by such other enfranchesed in the same crafte, as shalbe experte and cunninge in the same crafte, uppon the like paine to be ymployed (as is aforesaid).

(16) ALSOE that if any persone free of the said Crafte or any forrein using the same Crafte, doe at any time hereafter, beare, send, or carrie any wares belonginge to the same Crafte, on hawking to sell, by the Streetes or Lanes within this Cittie or Suburbes of the same Then the person soe doing, at everie tyme, and as often as he shalbe found in such defaulte, shall forfeite the ware soe taken And yf he be enfranchesed of the Cittie, to pay vj^{s} viij^{d} for a ffyne, the one halfe thereof shalbe to the Cominaltie of this Cittie and that other halfe to the Comon boxe of the same Crafte.

(17) ITEM forasmuche as at this psent tyme, the goodmen of the same Crafte that be now enfranchized, are not able ne of themselves yet can serve this honorable Cittie with wares belonging to the same Crafte, unles they may have fforreins and Alyens to worke with them for a tyme, untill a convenient nomber of their own Appntices, hereafter to be bounde according to the Custome of the Cittie, shall and may be broughte up, taughte and enstructed sufficientlie to serve in the same Crafte And for that it

shalbe expedient, that such fforreins and straungers as have wroughte with persons of the same Companie before they were enfranchised, should be sett on worke and provided for It is by the Lord Maior and Thaldermen now being, dispensed that everie person now enfranchised in the same Crafte, att all times heereafter, during the space of ffive yeeres now next ensewing, and noe longer, shall and may have and keepe such fforren Appntices as they now have, and such other fforreins or Aliens, or Jorneymen, Cunning and expert in the said Crafte as they will, at their own free will and pleasure, for the said space of ffive yeeres, yf such person or psons cannot have ffree men of the said Companie to serve him or them.

(18) ALSOE that no person enfranchized in the said Crafte, take upon him to sett aworke or receive into his service, any man enfraunchized of any other Crafte, or any fforrein or Alyen, to worke in the same Crafte of Baskettmakers, within this Cittie, suburbes, or Liberties thereof, without the same ffreeman, fforreign, or Alyen, be firste examined, approoved, and understood by the Wardens of the said Crafte of Baskettmakers for the time being, for a conning workeman, upon paine of xx^{s}, to be devided in forme aforesaid And that noe person of the said Companie, shall hereafter sett any fforreign or Alyen on worke in the said Crafte, so long as he or they may have any ffreeman of the said Crafte to worke with him or them for a reasonable wages and entertainment, upon the like paine of xx^{s}, to be devided as aforesaid.

(19) ITEM that such fforreigns, Alyens, and strangers, baskettmakers now inhabiting within the Cittie of London Liberties and suburbes thereof, and all and everie other fforreins, Aliens, and strangers, Baskettmakers, which at any time hereafter may or shalbe upon some cause or consideracõn, tollerated and suffred by the Lord Maior and Aldermen of the said Cittie for the tyme being, to occupie the same Crafte or occupacõn of Baskettmaking, within the said Cittie, Liberties and suburbes thereof, shalbe allwaies under the search and goverment of the said

Wardens of the said Crafte and occupac̃on for the tyme being And shall paye quarteridge unto the said Companie, as the ffreemen of the same crafte and occupac̃on doe.

(20) ALSOE that if at aney time within the terme that any Wardens of the said Crafte for the time being, shall stand and occupie that roome, it can be dulie proved that the same Wardens doe not endeavour themselves, as much as in them is, according to their oathes and dutie, to make due search yf any unlawfull wares and unseasonable stuffe be had, made, or putt to sale within this Cittie And also doe not observe to their power, the rules and Ordinñces in this Booke specified, and do not cause these Ordinñces to be read ffowre times of the yeere, in some convenient place to the Cominaltie of the said Companie. That then the said Wardens to make a ffine for their Lasches and negligence in that behalfe, ffive markes, the one halfe thereof to be to the use of the Chamber aforesaid, and the other halfe to the Com̃on box of the said Crafte—Finis.

Itm̃ it is agreed that these men whose names hereafter followe shalbe made free of this Citie of the companye of basketmakers and they to pay e᷑vie one as foloweth viz: Thomas Robinson iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} whereof to paye in hand xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d} and the rest at [ ].* Angell Gyles iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} whereof in hand xx^{s} and the rest v^{s} a quarter, Christofer Johnson iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} whereof in hande vj^{s} viij^{d} the rest by v^{s} a quarter, Nicholas Prickleve iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} in hande xxvj^{s} viij^{d} the rest by vj^{s} viij^{d} a quarter, John Johnson iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} in hand vj^{s} viij^{d} the rest by vj^{s} viij^{d} a quarter, Laurence Adams v^{li} in hand x^{s} the rest by v^{s} a quarter, Cornelius Adrian iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} in hand vj^{s} viij^{d} and the rest by vj^{s} viij^{d} a quarter, Andrew Banberye x^{li} Adrian Adrian x^{li} Richarde Robinson v^{li} and John Johnson v^{li} whereof in hand l^{s} & l^{s} at Bar᷑thewe tyde next.†

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* Blank in the original.

† (Rep. 16, fols. 498b–502; Letter Book V. fols. 252–254.) These ordinances are transcribed (with the exception of the last item referring to payments) from a MS. in the Company's possession, *vide* pp. 123, 124.

Sixteen years after the foregoing ordinances were granted to the Company, some trouble appears to have arisen respecting the employment of non-freemen. The matter having been brought before the notice of the Court of Aldermen and the complaint investigated, further rules were made on the 18th January, 1585. The extracts from the City Records leading up to the grant and the second set of Ordinances allowed, are here set forth :—

DIXIE, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER, 28 ELIZABETH (1585).

Itm̃ yt ys orderyd that M^{r} Buckell and M^{r} Byllingesley Aldr̃en shall aswell hear and examine the cause complayned uppon to ys Co^{r}te by dyvers of the Companye of Baskettmakers agaynste Chr̃ofer Johnson,* Basketmaker for settinge two forreyns on worke, as allso to take order agaynst settinge forreyns on worke heareafter by any of that Companye And to make reporte unto this Co^{r}te of theyre doeing thearein wth all convenient speede.†

Martis Decimo Octavo die Januarii 1585 Annoq3 Vicesimo octavo Dñi nr̃i Eliz : Regina &c.

DIXIE MAIOR, Recorder, Hayward, Osborne, Pullison, Starkye, Bond, Martin, Calthorpe, Woodcock, Buckell, Slaine, Billingsley.

THIS day M^{r} Buckell and M^{r} Billingsley Aldreñ, to whome the examinacon of the cawse touching the Baskettmakers of this Cittie was heretofore referred by this Courte did make their reporte in writing to the same

* One of the eleven Basket-makers enrolled in 1569, *vide* p. 41.
† Rep. 21, fol. 248b.

Courte of their opinions therein the Tenor whereof hereafter enseweth in their words viz:—

Decimo Octavo die Januarii 1585.

FIRST That it may be lawfull for us to keepe in worke all those fforreins and strangers that we now have, and from henceforth noe mor to be received into worke into this Cittie, wth any enfranchised in the said Crafte, whose names hereafter ensue.

fforrein Basketmakers their names.*

ffather Mude	Thomas Newbery
Goodman Hubberd	ffraunces Cockman
George Parker	Gryffyn Tracey
John Saunds	Noye Luther
Henry Arnold	Symon Huggyns
Willm̄ Richardson	Jerome Lidgingham
Richard Miles	Charles Wheatley
John Reyrson	Willm̄ Hearne
Robert Tanner	ffraunces Dodman
Cornelius Nicholas	Simon Carter
Garrett Johnson	Thomas Gladen
Robert Wylde	George Cole
John Brounckhurst	Thomas Wilson
Peter ffreyre	Hary Owyn
John Eastcrigg	

THE SECOND that yf any of those fforreins or strangers which we now have, shall at any tyme hereafter goe into the Countrey to worke in the said Crafte, as long as they may have worke heere, shall loose their priveledge and be noe more sett on worke within the Cittie in the said Crafte And whosoever enfranchized in the said Crafte presuminge to sett any such fforreins or Strangers on worke shall have the penaltie of the Lawe.

ITEM that noe man enfranchized as aforesaid, shall

* This list includes English "foreigners" as well as aliens.

hereafter go about to entice or inveagle any other mans servant from him, by giving or offering any money, called drinking money, or by lending any money, giving or offring greater wages than usuall wages. And that noe man enfranchized as aforesaid, shall receive into his service any Jorneyman without the consent of the Wardens of the said Companie, and ffower of the assistants be thereunto had upon paine.

ITEM that it may be lawfull for those that have biene Wardens of the Companie of the said Crafte to keepe ffive Appntices a piece.

ITEM that noe man enfranchized in the said Companie, being a Jorneyman, as long as he shall worke Jorney-worke, shall take or keepe any Appntice without the Wardens consente and ffowre of the Assistants.

Cuthbert Buckell, Ald^r^.
Henry Billinglie, Ald^r^.

WHICH Report was verie well liked and allowed of by the same Court and thereupon ordered that the same shalbe entred into the Reportorie and observed in all points.*

Sebright.

The following entries appear in the City Records some few years after the grant of the preceding Ordinances, namely:—

MARTYN, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER, 36 ELIZABETH (1594).

Item yt is ordred that M^r^ Chamblyn and M^r^ Towneclerke shall have consideracon of the petycon exhibited to this co^r^te by the Company of the Baskettmakers And to make reporte to this Co^r^te of their opinyons therein.†

* Transcribed (with the exception of the names of the foreign Basket-makers) from a MS. in the Company's possession, *vide* pp. 123, 124 (Rep. 21, fol. 254; Letter Book K. fol. 78).

† Rep. 23, fol. 303.

RIDER, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER, 43 ELIZABETH (1600).

Item yt is ordred that M^r^ Lowe M^r^ Watts & M^r^ Hampson Aldreñ or anye two of them shall heare & examyn the cause in Contraversye between the M^r^ and Wardens of the Companye of Baskettmakers and some of the yonge men of that Companye And to ende the same or make reporte to this Co^r^te of theire opinions therein.*

No further allusion to the "petition" of 1594, mentioned above, has been found. The following record of 1610 possibly had reference to the "cause in contraversye" between the "Wardens and the young men," in the year 1600, since it deals with a complaint of the journeymen that the masters did not find them work and that they purchased baskets of foreign manufacture:—

CAMBELL, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 7 JAMES I. ($16\frac{10}{11}$).

This day the causes contayned in the peticõn preferred to this Courte by the Journeymen being ffreemen of the Company of Basketmakers of this Cyttie against the M^rs^ of the said Company for not setting them on worke and buying theire wares of fforrayne Basketmakers are referred to the hearing and examynation of M^r^ Bolles and M^r^ ffarrington Aldermen And they to end the same or make reporte to this Courte in writing under theire hands of theire opynions touching the same.†

The petition was considered and the third

* Rep. 25, fol. 181b. † Rep. 29, fol. 169.

and final Ordinances granted by the Court of Aldermen :—

Martis Vicesimo Septmo die Martii 1610 Annoq Regni Regis Jacobi Angliæ &c. Octavo et Scosie Quadragesimo Tertio.

CAMBELL MAIOR, Garrard, Bennett, Watts, Rowe, Craven, Pemberton, Swinarton, Romeny, Hayes, Elwes, Stile, Bolles, ffarington et Harvey et Cockaine Vicecom

ITEM this day M^r Bolles and M^r ffarington Aldermen presented unto this Courte a Reporte in writing under their hands the teno^r whereof followeth in their wordes viz :

To the right hono^ble S^r Thomas Campbell Knight Lord Maior of the Cittie of London and his right wor^ll Bretheren the Aldreñ of the same.

WHEREAS at a Courte holden the ffirst day of ffebruarie last past, the cawses conteined in the petiton preferred to this Courte by the jorneymen being ffremen of the Companie of Baskettmakers of this Cittie, against the masters of the said Companie for not setting them on worke, and for buying their wares on forrein Basketmakers, were referred to the hearing and examinacon of us whose names are subscribed, and we to end the same or certifie this Courte in writing under o^r hands, of o^r opinions therein as by the same reference may appeare.

WEE therefore, having (in performance thereof) called before us Robert Brackin and Robert Mounte now Wardens of the said Companie, Clement Holmes, Adrian Adrianson, William Addersburrie, William Wheatelie, Thomas Oliffe and John Clarke now Assistants, and heretofore Wardens of the said Companie And likewise John Johnson, John Carder, and John West, and about Twentie more being jorneymen and ffreemen of the said companie, and deliberatelie heard the parties of both sides, have for a quiett and peaceable end between them, and by the mutuall and free Consent of all parties resolved and

thought fitting (so it stand with the pleasure and good liking of this Court) that these Orders following by us conceived, may by this Courte be confirmed and established that is to say,

IMPRIMIS that no ffreeman of this Cittie using the trade of Baskettmaking or Baskettselling, shall at any time hereafter, buy any manner of made wares of any fforreiner, usinge the same trade, but such sortes of made wares as of ancient tymes, have beene accustomed to be bought of Forreiners, viz: Covered Baskets, fflasketts, stake mawnds, and tymber ware, upon paine to forfeit, for everie tyme wherein any such ffreeman shall offend to the contrarie, Twenty Shillings, to the use of the poore of the said Companie of Baskettmakers.

ITEM that if any person or ꝑsons beinge ffree of the said Companie of Baskettmakers, and dwelling without this Cittie or the Liberties thereof, shall at any time hereafter bring any made wares belonging to the trade of Baskettmaking, to this Cittie or Liberties thereof to be sold That then it shall, and may be lawfull to, and for the Wardens of the said Companie for the time being, at their discrec̃ons to buy such made wares, or to appoint such other person or persons to buy the same as they shall thinke good; w^{ch} wares so bought, shalbe by them distributed indifferentlie amongst the rest of the ffreemen of the said Companie, according to their particular necessities.

WHICH Orders aswell the said Wardens and Assistants as the said Jorneymen doe most humblie desire yo^{r} Lo^{pp} and Worp^{s} may (for the better government of the said Companie and the relife of the porer sorte being jorneymen and wanting worke) be by this Courte confirmed and established w^{ch} we leave to the grave Consideraco̅n of yo^{r} Lo^{pp} and wor^{ps}.

George Bolles.
Richard Farrington.

The which Reporte beeinge heere openlie read was well

liked and allowed of and thereupon ordered that the same shalbe entred into the Reportorie and observed in all points accordinglie.*

Sebright.

* Transcribed from a MS. in the Company's possession, *vide* pp. 123, 124 (Rep. 29, fol. 199).

TRANSLATIONS AND ADMISSIONS BY ORDER OF THE COURT OF ALDERMEN

The following extracts from the City Records refer to the "translation" of Basket-makers free of other Companies, and the admission of persons to the freedom of the Basket-makers' Company by authority of the Court of Aldermen.

The translation of those Basket-makers who were free of the Butchers' Company at the time of the recognition of the former, came before the Court of Aldermen on the 19th September, 1566,* the Butchers assenting to the transfer on the 26th of the same month.† The matter was again brought forward and finally settled after the establishment of the Basket-makers' Company:—

AVENON, MAIOR.

Thursday 10 November, II Elizabeth (1569).

At this courte it was ordered that the wardens of the bochers shalbe warned to be here the nexte courte daie for there assents to be geven for the transferringe of di?s of there company usinge the basketmakers occupacon to the felowship and companye of the basketmakers of this Citie latelie established and made by this courte.‡

* *Vide* p. 28. † *Vide* p. 29.

‡ Rep. 16, fol. 514.

AVENON, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 12 ELIZABETH (1569).

Itm̃ the Wardens of the weavers did this daye agree & assent that Robert Sale and Richard Poll beinge free of there company & usinge the arte & occupacon of Basket-makinge shalbe transferred & sett over from them to the felowshipp of the Basketmakers latelye erected.*

AVENON, MAIOR.

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY, 12 ELIZABETH ($15\frac{69}{70}$).

At this courte John Owtinge m^{r} of the company of the Carpenters declared unto the same courte in the name of his hole companye aforesaid that they all were well pleased contented and assentinge that John Olyff† beinge free of theire saide companye and using tharte and occupacon of basketmakinge shall be translated from theim and made ffree of the ffelowship of the Basketmakers And it was thereupon ordred and agreed by the said Courte that the Chamberleyn of this Citie and his Successors Chamb̃layns for the tyme beinge shall truely and indifferentlie for the reasonable benefitt of the Citie use his and there good discrecons for the taxacon & assessm^{t} of the fyne bothe of the saide Olyf and of all others of other occupacons hereafter to be translated to the saide felowship of Basketmakers.‡

AVENON, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 12 ELIZABETH (1570).

Itm̃ the wardens of the bochers here beinge pñte did assent & agree that all those psons of there companye that use the arte and occupacon of makinge of basketts &

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* Rep. 16, fol. 517b. † *Vide* p. 17.

‡ Rep. 16, fol. 523b; Letter Book V. fol. 272b.

there appᵖntices & not there occupacon shalbe taken transfered and sett oᵛ from them to the felowship of the basketmakers of this Citie latelie newelie erected by this courte.*

LOWE, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 23RD JULY, 3 JAMES I. (1605).

Item the cause complained of to this Court by the Companye of Basketmakers is referred to the examinacõn of Sᵗ Robert Lee and Sᵗ John Watts knights, and they to end the same or make report thereof to this Court.

Item whereas Wᵐ Saunders was bound Apprentice to John Powell Basketmaker for seaven yeares and inrolled, and served him not above sixe yeares, and afterwards indirectlye procured his freedome by patrimonye in the Companye of Turnors. It is ordered adiudged and decreed by this Court That the sayd William Saunders shalbee disfranchised from the sayd Companie of Turnors, and afterwards to be translated to the sayd Companie of Basketmakers by the consent and agreement of the Mʳ and Wardens of bothe the sayd Companies.†

HOARE, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 3 JUNE, II ANNE (1712).

This day Mʳ Water Bailiffe presented unto this Court William Freeman to be made Free of this City as the First of Two granted unto him the Twentieth of November last to Reimburse him his Charges for providing Coats and Caps for the Citys Watermen on Lord Mayors Day last, It is Ordered That the said William Freeman shall be admitted into the Freedom of this City by Redemption in the Company of Basketmakers paying to Mʳ Chamberlain for the City's use the sum of Forty six shillings and eight pence.‡

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* Rep. 16, fol. 516b. † Rep. 27, fols. 56, 56b.
‡ Rep. 116, fol. 214.

The only reference in the Company's books to the preceding admission, is the following :—

July 7th, 1712.

	£	s.	d.
William ffreeman was made ffree & paid by purchase or Redempc̃on	1	0	0

Other extracts from the Company's books recording a "translation" and admissions by order of the Court of Aldermen are here given :—

27th April, 1672.

Ordered that the Wardens may translate Joshuah Green to the Ventners not taking lesse then ffive pounds and what more they cane.

16*th October*, 1724.

	£	s.	d.
William Shephard was this day made free of this Company by Redemption by virtue of an Order of the Court of Aldermen dated 13th of this instant October and paid . .	1	0	0

10*th October*, 1726.

	£	s.	d.
Simon Pollard was this day made free by Redemption by Order of the Court of Aldermen dated 4th of October instant and paid .	1	0	0

8*th July*, 1728.

	£	s.	d.
William Eyre was this day made free by Redemption by Order of the Court of Aldermen dated 7th of May last and paid . . .	1	0	0

APPLICATIONS FOR A CHARTER.

After the Restoration, the Basket-makers took steps to obtain a charter from the Crown. The earliest record is found in the wardens' accounts, dated the 6th May, 1664, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Paid the Clarke for drawing the heads of a Charter and his attendance about it . .	00	10	00
Spent at a meeting about it	00	06	00

There are no further references to the above entries and it is therefore evident that the matter was not proceeded with at the time, possibly owing to the Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire in the following year.

The Company's books record at length an application made in 1682, the full text of the petition being given. This attempt to obtain a charter in the reign of Charles II. received the support of the Cane-chair Makers and was energetically proceeded with for a time, though eventually abandoned. The absence of any reference to this application in the City Records, shows that the Basket-makers did not seek the permission of the civic authorities before

presenting their petition to the Crown. Charles II.'s inattention to business may possibly have been another reason why the Court of Aldermen was in ignorance of the matter.

This solicitation for a charter is recorded in the Company's books as follows:—

December 4th, 1682.

We whose names are subscribed of London Basketmakers Considering the disadvantages we lye under in the manadging of our Trade by reason of our want of a Charter, Doe hereby unanimously agree to use our utmost endeavours for the gaining of the same. And doe hereby desire and appoint the two present Wardens Mr Adrian Peirson and Mr Jacob Chandler to call any others to their assistance, and to prosecute the same as speedily as they can And what they doe therein we doe hereby ratify and allow off. And we doe further promise That in case we be desired to subscribe any other Instrument for the prosecuting the same, that we will doe it accordingly. Witness our hands the day and yeare above written.

Adrian Peirson Jacob Chandler	Wardens	William ffeilder John Johnson
Edmond Peirson		John Hancocke
Thomas Hall		Isaac Knight
Matthew Keene		Samuel Gander
Anthony Watts		Read Soane
Richard Reding		Robert Aldridge
James Dickenson		John Baldocke
Samuel Puller		Thomas Board
Jacob Alcott		James Herring
John ffranklin		Thomas Walker
Thomas Thirtickle		William Rime
John Seyford		Edward Harper

*January 12th,** 1682.

It is this day agreed by and betweene the Society of Basketmakers and Kainers That they will joyntly act together in the obtaining of a Charter. And to that end there is to be three or foure of each Society who shall act for the rest in the doeing of it. And whereas the Kainers have offered the sum of Seaventy pounds towards the same business It is accepted off And agreed That Mr ffranklin Mr Thirtickle Mr. Berrey and Mr Puller shall in the behalfe of the rest of the Kainers give Bond for the payment of the said sum by such parcells and sums and at such times as shall be demanded. The which any two, three, or all of them may see the same expended And it is further agreed That whatsoever sum or sums shall be demanded upon the same Bond, soe much money is alsoe to be joyned therewith by the Basketmakers for the joynt bearing the charge of the said buisnesse.

John ffranklin
Thomas Thirtickle
John Berrey
John Seamour

In pursuance of which Agreement the said John ffranklin, Thomas Thirtickle, John Berrey and Isaac Puller Entered into an obligacon bearing date the two and twentieth day of January 1682, for the true payment of Three score pounds, on such dayes and times, and by such severall parcells, as the said Wardens Adrian Pearson and Jacob Chandler should demand and require the same.

At a Court, January 22nd, 1682.

Whereas severall objections have been made about the carrying on the buisness of obtaining a Charter And one amongst the rest made by the Kainers, namely that it

* January 1st to March 25th was at this period subsequent to 31st December of the same year, *vide* note, p. 126.

will be unsafe for them to pay their money to the present Wardens unless they be assured of the care, paines, and ability of such Wardens as shall succeed them in manadging the same buisness. And this Court being satisfied with the industry of the present Wardens Mr Parson and Mr Chandler. It is therefore hereby agreed, That in case the said buisness of obtaining a Charter shall not be fully perfected by the time they should goe out of their places the next Sommer, Then we Order That they the said present Wardens shall be continued in their said place for one or two years longer, That the said buisness may be by them perfectly finished, And it is further Ordered That the present Wardens have power hereby, to call in forthwith all such money as is now out at interest due to this Company, for the carrying on the buisness aforesaid with all speed.

Witness our hands the day and yeare abovesaid.

Edmond Pearson	Samuel Puller
Matthew Keene	John Alcott
Anthony Watts	John ffranklin
William ffeilder	Thomas Thirtickell
Thomas Hall	John Berry
James Dickenson	George Crane.

And the Petition following was agreed upon, and accordingly presented to his Ma^{ty} in these words.

To the Kings Most Excellent Ma^{tie}.

The humble Petition of the Society of Basketmakers of the City of London.

Sheweth :

That yo^{r} Petico^{rs} are an antient Society by vertue of certeine Rules and Constitutions unto them granted by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen of the said City, And by vertue thereof yo^{r} Petico^{rs} are impowered to search for insufficient and ill made Goods that are exposed to sale within the said City and Liberties thereof, by persons of yo^{r} Pet^{rs} calling And such Goods soe found, to seize

and dispose off according to Law. Which yo^r^ Petico^rs^ frequently doe to the great benefitt of the Citizens of the said City, and other your Ma^ties^ Subjects, And to the great charge and trouble of yo^r^ Petitioners.

That there are certeine persons at a distance from, and some adjacent to the said City, out of the Liberties thereof, who doe follow yo^r^ Peti^rs^ calling, that never serve their Apprenticeships to the same as the Statute of 5° Eliz:* requires. Your Petitioners calling being an antient calling long before the Statute was made. And the said persons are very unskillfull in the due making the Goods belonging to your Pet^rs^ trade And doe use very ill Comodities in the making of the same. And doe sell the said Goods soe ill made, to certeine persons in the said City secretly, and to other persons in the Countrey publiquely, who have occasion to use the said Goods but are unskillfull of the true value and goodnesse of the same Whereby yo^r^ Mat^ies^ Subjects are very much abused and deceived, and yo^r^ Pet^rs^ trade is thereby undermined and destroyed, who are not permitted to make such ill Goods, and therefore cannot afford their Comodities soe cheape And yo^r^ Pet^rs^ Apprentices discouraged to serve in their calling.

That nevertheless yo^r^ Pet^rs^ as their duty binds them, doe take great care to serve your Ma^ty^ with good, fitt and usefull Cannon Basketts for yo^r^ Ma^ties^ Stores, and when yo^r^ Mat^tie^ occasions in time of War doth require, doe presse, fitt and able Men out of themselves, to attend yo^r^ Ma^ties^ Service whilest the said unskillfull & ignorant persons doe stay at home, and abuse your Ma^ties^ Subjects as aforesaid, and doe alsoe gaine your Pet^rs^ trade & livelyhood from them In regard yo^r^ Pet^rs^ authority, extendeth noe further than the said City and Liberties thereof.

That yo^r^ Pet^rs^ living within and neare the said City of London, doe sitt at great Rents, their Goods requiring much roome for disposing of the same, and are alsoe lyable

* 5 Eliz. cap. 4.

to other great Charges in bearing offices within the said City, and in their Companyes with other ffreemen thereof, which the said Straingers are not obnoxious to.

That yo^{r} Pet^{rs} calling is of great advantage to the Publique by improveing such Lands in planting the Comodities yo^{r} Pet^{rs} use in their trade, that would not otherwise afford any profitt to the Proprietors.

That for the private lucre of some of the said Proprietors, they doe cutt the Rodds that grow upon the said Grounds too soone, & out of season, which are bought up and used by the said unskillfull persons who abuse your Ma^{ties} Subjects with the same, And this they doe for want of power to be graunted to some fitt and able persons, to inspect & prevent the same by seizure of the Goods soe untimely cutt, or otherwise as to yo^{r} Ma^{tie} in yo^{r} great wisdome shall seeme meete and expedient.

In consideracon whereof & that Abuses in yo^{r} Pet^{rs} trade may be regulated, and the publique secured from the deceipts and frauds putt upon them by the said ignorant and unskillfull persons that follow your Pet^{rs} trade unlawfully, & all others, and yo^{r} Pet^{rs} enabled to live by their calling, & beare the Charge of ffreemen of the said City as they ought to doe, and be in a Condicon to releive the poore Brethren of their profession as the Cause may require

> Yo^{r} Pet^{rs} in most humble manner pray That yo^{r} Ma^{tie} will be most graciously pleased to graunt to yo^{r} Pet^{rs} & their Successors yo^{r} Ma^{ties} most gracious Letters Pattents of Incorporation to extend to the City & Liberties thereof, & for the suppressing the said unskillfull persons, & avoiding the Cutting the said Goods out of Season, to such convenient distance in Circumference from the said City as is usuall in like cases And as to yo^{r} Ma^{tie} in your great wisdome shall seeme meet and convenient.
>
> And as in all duty bound yo^{r} Pet^{rs} shall ever pray &c.

Upon the Backside of which said petition were the following words Endorsed, viz:

Windsor Aprill 30th, 1683.

The Pet[rs] affirming that they have hitherto and anciently acted as a Society, by certeine Rules & Constitucons appointed by the Lord Major & Court of Aldermen of London His Ma[tie] is graciously pleased to referre this their Petition to Mr Atturney Gen[ll] to examine how far those Rules and Constitutions doe extend, & whether they be not sufficient for the well ordering that Society. And if he finds they are not soe, then to report his Opinion to his Ma[tie] whether he thinks it fitt they should be incorporated into a Company by Letters Pattents as they desire, & with what further Rules and Limitations; whereupon his Ma[tie] will declare his further pleasure.

L. Jenkins.

The Answer of Mr. Attorney Gen[ll] was made upon the Backside of the said Petition & was in these words following, viz:

I have considered of this Petition, And doe find That they have beene long a Society governed by Rules & Constitutions approved by the Lord Major & Court of Aldermen from time to time as application hath been made to the Court of Aldermen, But they being noe Corporation, the Executing of those Rules is more difficult than it would be in case they were a Corporation, And in case his Ma[tie] be pleased to incorporate them in the usuall forme for the better regulating of the Company, I conceive it necessary It should be provided for That his Ma[tie] and his Successors may at any time by signification of their pleasure under their Privy Seale or Privy Signett, resume & determine the Corporation, & with Provision that they shall not be brought upon the Livery of the City.

R. Sawyer, 25 May 1683.

The Attorney-General's reply was followed on the Company's part by the submission of some "Reasons" showing the advantages which

would result from incorporation, together with a draft of the proposed powers under a charter:—

Some Reasons humble offered that it is for his Ma^{ties} service to incorporate the fellowship of Basketmakers London upon his Ma^{ties} reference and M^{r} Attorney Generall's Report thereunto.

1. M^{r} Attorney Gen^{ll} Reports That the ffellowship cannot soe well put in operacon their By laws for regulation of the said profession as if they were incorporated And such Regulation is necessary to be had for the publique good.

2. To avoid any prejudice that may hereafter be done by the said Corporation to his Ma^{ties} Prerogative or to the publique, in Mr Attorney's Report there is provision made that a clause be inserted in the Patent That it shall be in his Ma^{ties} power under his Privy Seale, or Privy Signett, to determine the said Patent at his will and pleasure. Soe that if the affections of the Members of the said Corporation should not lead them to their duty, their owne interest will for preservation of their Charter. And it would be for his Ma^{ties} service that all the Corporacons in England stood upon the same tearmes.

3. There is provision in the said Report made, that the said Corporacon shall have noe Livery, because such meane Tradesmen have been generally taken notice of to be disaffected to the Government Soe that they cannot prejudice his Ma^{ties} interest upon Elections if they were willing soe to doe. But since their Charter will be at his Ma^{ties} pleasure, their interest if they have a Livery, will engage them to vote for his Ma^{ties} Service for feare of looseing their Charter.

4. They are very usefull to his Ma^{tie} in time of warr, in making Cannon Basketts, And they would be bound by the said Charter at such times, to find out fitt and able men to serve his Ma^{ty} in his traine of Artillery. And although they are but a meane Calling, yet they are

numerous & very usefull Members in the publique & are very well able to support the charge of the said Corporation.

5. The Basketmakers have been a ffellowship neare 150 yeares constituted by the Lord Maior & Court of Aldermen of London, and have hitherto regulated the said trade of Basketmaking to the great satisfaction of the Magistrates there. But the Abuses that are comitted in the said Calling are done in the Countrey neare and at a great distance from London, where they are under noe regulacon. And the Comodities soe ill made, are craftyly and deceiptfully obtruded upon the King's Leidge people who are ignorant of the true value and goodness of the same, to the great damage of the publique & prejudice of the said trade. And now since Judgment is given and entered against the Charter of London, the said ffellowship of Basketmakers is fallen together with it. Soe that at present there is noe regulacon any where had in the said trade.

A Draught of the Power to be granted in a Charter to this Society.

That the said Corporation of Basketmakers may be capable to purchase or sell Lands, Goods, or Chattels, and to plead and be impleaded by the name of the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Art & Mistery of Basketmakers of the City of London and Liberties thereof.

That there shall be Three of the said ffellowship in manner and forme hereafter mentioned, who shall be & be called the Master & Wardens of the said ffellowship of Basketmakers of London And that it shall & may be lawfull to & for the said Members of the said ffellowship of Basketmakers, within some convenient time to choose and elect out of themselves three able & sufficient psons (useing the Art, trade or mystery of Basketmaking, Skaine working, Kaine working & Splinter working) to be Master & Wardens of the said ffellowship, for the space

of two whole yeares then next following, and from thenceforth untill a new Election be made And that the same Three persons soe chosen to be Master & Wardens, shall within convenient time after their said Election, be sworne before the Master and Wardens of the said ffellowship for the yeare preceding, for the true execucon of such things as shall apperteine unto their office, according to the good Rules and Ordinances to them to be allowed and appointed According to the forme of the Oath in that Case limited & provided, And that it may be lawfull to and for the said Master and Wardens soe sworne as aforesaid, to call unto their Assistance a convenient number of the members of the said ffellowship, who shall be and be called the Assistants of the said ffellowship.

That the old Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said ffellowship may lawfully hereafter, betweene the twenty-fourth day of June and the Twenty ninth day of September every yeare then next following, assemble themselves together in some convenient place by them provided within the said City, and there to choose and elect out of themselves Three able men that use the said Art, trade or mystery of Basketmaking, Sckaine working, Caine working, and Splinter working, to be Master and Wardens of the said ffellowship for one whole yeare then next following, and soe forth untill three others shall be elected and sworne unto the said Office, and the same Master and Wardens soe chosen, within Twenty dayes then next following, shall be sworne truely to doe and execute such things as shall apperteine or belong to their respective Offices, according to the good Rules and Ordinances to them to be allowed & appointed. And if the same Master and Wardens thus elected and sworne, shall happen to dye or misbehave themselves within the same one yeare that they should stand That then the Members of the said ffellowship (viz:) the Master or Wardens surviving, or remaining, and the Assistants of the said ffellowship, may choose soe many more persons of the same Arts Misteries or Occupacons, to supply and

serve instead and place of him and them soe dyeing, or being removed, for the residue of the said yeare, to be sworne in forme aforesaid.

That one of the said ffellowship be called Master of the said ffellowship, And two others be called Wardens, And Sixteen others be called Assistants.

That the Upper Warden shall succeed the former Master in his Office of Master And the Under Warden shall succeed the Upper Warden in his place, and then there shall be a new Choice of an Under Warden to succeed the said Warden in his Office or place of Under Warden And soe successively yearly every yeare.

That they may have a Hall, and power to meet and make Lawes for the due and orderly Government of the said Society or ffellowship, and to inflict penalties upon Offenders according to Law.

That Adrian Pearson be the first Master of the s^{d} Corporacon or ffellowship, and that Jacob Chandler and James Dickenson be the first Wardens of the said ffellowship And that Matthew Keene, Anthony Watts, Thomas Hall, Richard Redding, Paul Allestry, John Slyford, William ffeilder, Joseph Williams, Samuell Puller, John Alcott, Edward Harper, John ffranklin, Thomas Thirtickell, John Berrey and George Crane, be the first Assistants of the said Company or ffellowship.

That the Company or ffellowship have the Search and Oversight of all Members free of their Society, and full power to provide due and legall Remedies against deceipts and frauds, in the said Mistery or trade of Basket-making, Sckaine working, Kaine working and Splinter working.

That the said Company or ffellowship may choose and elect one meet person fitt and able, to be their Clerke And other fitt person or more to be their Beadle or Beadles as their Comon Officers, to make Somõns in the name of the Master and Wardens for the time being And to execute other the lawfull Precepts & Comandments of the said ffellowship And the said Clerke, Beadle

and Beadles, to have such Salary as the said Company shall think fitt.

That the said Clerke and Beadle or Beadles, be sworne in manner and forme aforesaid, for the true execucon of such things as shall apperteine or belong to their respective Offices, according to the good Lawes & Rules to them prescribed and appointed.

That the Company have power and authority comanding all his Ma^{ties} officers and others, to be aiding & assisting unto them in putting the said Good Lawes & Ordinances in execucon against such as unduely exercize the said Arts and mysteries.

That other usuall powers & Clauses be alsoe inserted according to the Customes & Usages of other Corporacons and Societies of the City of London.

Notwithstanding the above, the efforts of the Basket-makers to obtain a charter from Charles II. were futile, though it is evident from the entries in the Company's books that it was some little time before the attempt was finally abandoned :—

The which proceedings aforesaid not taking the expected effect, It was resolved on to make use of John Calvert Esq^{r} for the accomplishing of the same, who agreed upon termes for the same, and accepted on the Obligacon of Adrian Pearson, Jacob Chandler, John Berry, James Dickenson, William ffeilder and Samuell Puller, dated the Eleaventh day of January Anno Dni 1683, for payment of One hundred Guynneys as by the Condicon thereof appeareth which followeth in these words :—

WHEREAS the above bound Adrian Pearson & Jacob Chandler the present Wardens of the Society or ffellowship of Basketmakers by authority & direccon of the said Society, Together with the assistance of the above bound

John Berrey, James Dickenson, William ffeilder and Samuell Puller on the behalfe of themselves and others of their profession, did Peticon to his Ma^{ty} to be incorporated by his Ma^{ties} most gracious Letters Patents, which being by his Ma^{ty} referred to M^{r} Attorney Gen^{ll} was upon his Report thereupon at present rejected And whereas the above named John Calvert hath promised to use his utmost endeavours to prevaile with his Ma^{ty} to passe a Warrant under his Ma^{ties} Royall hand and Signature Manuall directed to M^{r} Attorney gen^{ll} for drawing a Patent to incorporate the said ffellowship of Basketmakers under the great Seale, as in like Cases are accustomed Now the Condicon of this Obligacon is such That if the said John Calvert his Agents or Assignes doe, and shall within the space of ffoure moneths next ensueing the date above written, obtaine gett or procure the said Warrant to be signed and sealed by his Ma^{ty} for incorporating the said ffellowship of Basketmakers as aforesaid Then the said Adrian Pearson, Jacob Chandler, John Berrey, James Dickenson, William ffeilder and Samuell Puller, or any of them, their or any of their Executors Adm^{rs} or Assignes, shall and doe well and truely pay or cause to be paid unto the said John Calvert his certeine Attorney Ex^{rs} Adm^{rs} or Assignes, the full and entire sum of One hundred Guinneys of Gold current English Coine of the value of one & twenty shillings and six pence each Guynney, within one Calendar moneth next after his Ma^{ty} shall be pleased to signe and seale the said Warrant, and the same be delivered to the said Wardens or one of them, or left at one of their dwelling houses for them or one of them That then this Obligacon to be void Or else it to stand & remaine in full force and vertue.

This arrangement with Mr. Calvert was agreed to by order of a subsequent court, and thus recorded:—

At a Court held December 31st, 1683.

It is agreed by us of the Society of Basketmakers whose names are hereunder written That the now present Wardens, Adrian Pearson & Jacob Chandler are hereby impowered & enabled to conclude with Mr John Calvert, and give him his demand which is One hundred Guynneys, and to give Bond for the same with two or more other persons bound with them, that they shall think meet of the same Society. Provided the said Mr John Calvert doe procure his Maties Signe Manuall or Royall Signett to a Warrant for Letters Patent of incorporation of the said Society or ffellowship of Basketmakers, according to the Condicon of the said Bond. Alsoe we consent and agree That the said Wardens doe take up One hundred pounds current money of England upon Interest, in the behalfe of the said Society or ffellowship of Basketmakers towards the payment of the said sum to the above said John Calvert And further on the same day it was agreed That the two Wardens, Adrian Pearson & Jacob Chandler, James Dickenson, William ffeilder, Samuell Puller, and John Berrey be bound for the said money as aforesaid.

Matthew Keene	William ffeilder
Thomas Hall	Samuel Puller
John ffranklin	Thomas Thirtickell
Anthony Watts	John Berrey
James Dickenson	George Crane.

On July 7th, 1684, there is a record of payment to the clerk for entering the foregoing particulars in the Quarter book, namely:—

Paid him for entering the proceedings about a Charter & for attending upon the Company's business	00	15	00

At a meeting of the court, held December

the 4th, 1684, the following resolution was passed :—

This Court doth order and agree that Mr Calvert be desired to continue his Solicitations for the gaining a Charter for the Company, And that he shall upon accomplishing the same be allowed One hundred Guynneys. Ordered that Mr Johnson shall assist, & look after that buisnesse, and to have satisfaction for his paines soe soone as a Charter is obtained."

Further entries in the books show that renewed efforts were made a few months later :—

6th April, 1685.

Ordered That the Wardens, Mr Reading, Mr ffranklin, Mr Puller, Mr ffeilder, Mr Alcott, Mr Allett, Mr Evans and or Clerke or any three of them shall be a Comittee for the sueing for a new Charter.

29th May, 1685.

Ordered that our Clerke be desired to lay out such money as is requisite for the carrying on the buisnesse of obteining a new Charter, And that in the first place pay unto Mr Johnson 2 Guinneys for his Encouragement & That the Clerke be allowed a Consideracon for his laying out his money.

This is followed by an entry of the payment to Mr. Johnson :—

June 3rd, 1685.

Paid then to Mr Johnson according to the preceding Order 02 03 00

In the Wardens' Accounts from 15th July, 1681, to 15th July, 1683, there are several items

referring to this application for a charter, namely: —

Received of the Caniers towards the charges of a Charter	30	00	00
Spent ffebruary ij and at four other meetings about a Charter	02	19	06
Spent March vvvth & vvvjth goeing to Whitehall with the petition and waiteing on the Secretary	00	14	06
Given the Secretaries man	00	05	00
Spent foure dayes waiteing at Whitehall & on y^{e} Secretary	00	17	00
Gave the Secretaries man	00	02	06
Spent waiteing on y$_{e}$ Secretary	00	06	00
Spent May vvth waiteing on the Secretary at Windsor	05	04	06
Gave the Secretary and Captaine Cooke	03	01	06
Gave the Doore Keeper	00	02	06
Spent waiteing on the Secretary ten dayes	01	18	06
Spent goeing to the Temple with the Reference	00	12	00
Gave M^{r} Mathew Johnson	01	00	00
Paid M^{r} Johnson the Attorney	02	10	00
Gave S^{r} George Jefferies 5 giniys	05	07	06
Spent waiteing on the Attorney Generall	02	06	00
Gave M^{r} Cole a ginney	01	01	06
Spent with him	00	08	06
Gave the Attorney Generall ten ginneys	10	15	00
Gave his Clarke one ginney	01	01	06
Gave the Doorekeeper	00	02	06
Spent waiteing on the Attorney Generall	02	05	00
Spent at receiveing the Cainers mony	00	07	06
Paid M^{r} Johnson	02	10	00
Gave him by consent	01	00	00
Paid M^{r} Johnson his chargs goeing to Windsor	00	14	00
ffor hire of a horse for M^{r} Berreys charges	00	06	00

Spent at Windsor & Hampto(n) Court five dayes	07	18	00
Paid for transcribeing the petition the Reference & the Attorney Generalls Report	00	12	06
Spent at Whitehall waiting on the Secretary for the Lord Keepers Report . . .	04	00	06
Paid M^{r} Johnson	02	00	00
Spent waiteing on the Secretary severall tymes	01	12	00
Spent August vijth goeing to Hampton Court and waiteing severall tymes . . .	02	05	00
To M^{r} Johnson his expences . . .	00	10	00
To M^{r} Chandler for by him laid out . .	00	13	04

In the Wardens' Accounts for the period 28th July, 1683, to 28th July, 1685, the ensuing items occur:—

Paid M^{r} Johnson for transcribing the papers about a Charter severall times . .	02	00	00
Spent in attending the Secretary of State at severall times.	03	12	00
Spent with the Company and about the Charter	02	08	00
Given the Door Keeper at Whitehall . .	00	05	00

The extract from the City Records of March 18th, 1690/91 given below, refers to the fact that the Basket-makers and Cane-chair Makers had again petitioned the Crown for incorporation; although there are no records of this in the Company's books.

PILKINGTON, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 18 MARCH, 2 W. & MARY ($16\frac{90}{91}$).

Whereas a Petition hath bin presented to his Majesty from the Baskett-makers and Caners to be incorporated,

which by order of Councell was referred to M^r^ Attorney Generall communicated to this Court, and a copy of the said Petition with their reasons for their Incorporation being here read, The examination thereof is by this Court referred to S^r^ Robert Geffery, S^r^ John ffleet and S^r^ Edw^d^ Clarke or any two of them (taking M^r^ Borrett the Cities Sollicitor to theire Assistance) and they to prepare reasons against the said Baskett-makers and Caners being incorporated if they think the same will be any waies injurious to this City and present the same to this Court or otherwise present to this Court theire opinions therein.*

Here the matter appears to have been left; but some years later the question of obtaining a charter was again brought forward, evidently with the concurrence and support of the Cane-chair Makers, for in the Company's Quarter book under date October the 4th, 1697, the following is recorded :—

Agreed and resolved this day that the Company of Basket-makers doe with all convenient expedition proceed and Indeavour for the obteining a Charter to their said Company And that M^r^ Warden Berry, M^r^ Puller and M^r^ Kelson on the behalfe of the Cainers and M^r^ Warden Dobbs, M^r^ Pollett and M^r^ Goldsmith on the behalfe of the Basketmakers be forthwith Imployed and exercised in the negotiateing attending and indeavouring for the obteining of y^e^ aforesaid Intended Charter. Towards the Charges whereof severall persons have subscribed to a paper remaining in the hands of M^r^ Warden Berry.

Although no other allusion to this attempt appears in the Company's books, the subsequent extracts from the City Records show that a

* Rep. 95, fol. 114.

petition had lately been addressed to the Crown :—

EDWIN, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER, 10 WILLIAM III. (1698).

Whereas the Society of Baskettmakers and Caners have Petitioned his Ma^tie^ that they may be united and Consolidated and made one Corporac̃on and the same is referred to the Attorney Generall for his Approbac̃on It is referred to S^r^ Thomas Cooke S^r^ James Houblon S^r^ W^m^ Hedges S^r^ Owen Buckingham S^r^ Tho Rawlinson and S^r^ Rob^t^ Beddingfield or any three of them to consider of the same and prepare reasons & Argum^ts^ against their Incorporac̃on and to waite on M^r^ Attorney with y^e^ same and M^r^ Borrett the Cities Sollicitor to Attend them and Clement Herne to warne them.*

CHILD, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 10 WILLIAM III. (1698).

Upon reading the Petic̃on of the Wardens and Assistants of the Baskettmakers acknowledging their error in Petitioning to be incorporated without first acquainting this Court and praying that they may have the leave of the same for their Incorporac̃on and the Caine-chaire makers desireing to be heard against the said peticon It is Ordered that both parties be heard this day Threeweekes at which time they are to attend prepared.†

CHILD, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER, 10 WILLIAM III. (1698).

Upon reading the Petic̃on of y^e^ Baskettmakers and hearing of Councill on theire parte as well as on the Joyners who prayed to be heard against the said Petic̃on

* Rep. 102, fol. 428.

† Rep. 103, fol. 33.

It is Ordered that all parties shall be heard the Second Court after the next terme.*

No record of the appearance of the parties before the Court of Aldermen has been discovered, nor further reference to this matter found in the City Records.

In the Wardens' Accounts, dated July the 7th, 1701, the following is recorded :—

	£	s.	d.
To Mr. Webb in full for writings and attendance in the Charter business . . .	6	10	0

This is the last entry in the Company's books relating to the efforts of the Basket-makers to obtain a charter.

* Rep. 103, fol. 62.

ASSESSMENTS.

In the Report of the Committee of Privileges in connection with the grant of the Livery,* it was stated "that the Company have from time to time constituted, borne, and paid their full and due proportion and share of the contributions and duties as paid by the other Companies of this City."

The first Precept to include the Basket-makers, dated the 20th April, 1586, was an order on the Companies to supply men for the protection of the City, the requisition being thus recorded in the archives:—

For three score hable harquebusshiers wth good & servisable Calivers murrions swordes & daggars.†

The last four Companies mentioned in the list, together with the quota of men to be provided, are thus set forth:—

Butchers,	half a man.
Turners Basket-makers Glasiers	half a man.

From the curious reference to "half a man" it is clear that these four Companies were under

* *Vide* p. 101. † Journal 22, fol. 24.

an obligation to find one man between them, and it would be interesting to know how they settled the matter *inter se.*

In the reign of Elizabeth the Companies were required to keep a store of ammunition, as shown by the following Precept issued on the 4th July, 1586, for the supply of gunpowder :—

For Ten lasts of good and servic—— Gunpowder from the Companies,*

The proportion required from the last three Companies is thus recorded :—

Turners Basket-makers Glasiers	192 lbs.

As a precautionary measure against famine and inevitable extortion in times of scarcity, corn was stored in City granaries, but it is not known when the custom was established. The first reference to a compulsory loan for this purpose is found in an Act of Common Council, made the 25th September, 1521.

In 1587 all the City Companies were jointly required to provide 10,000 quarters of wheat, the Basket-makers being assessed at eight quarters. Allen states that in "this year a general scarcity of corn happened in England; and the scarcity increasing, the dearth became so excessive that wheat was sold in this city the

* Journal 22, fol. 37b.

spring following at three pounds four shillings the quarter." *

An assessment was made for furnishing 6000 quarters of corn for the provision of the City in December, 1590. On this occasion the Basket-makers were not called upon to find the four quarters entered against them, for the order concludes with these words:—

Theise six poore companyes we have thought necessary not to charge with any ꝓvision viz.

	q^ters
Bowyers	3
ffletchers	3
Wolmen	3
Minstrells	3
Baskettmakers . . .	4
Glasiers	4
	20 q^ters

The following assessments for corn are in the order of date:—

Precept for payment by the several Companies for the provision of 3000 quarters of Corn. November, 1596. $2\frac{1}{2}$ quarters Basketmakers at 35*s.* the quarter £4 7*s.* 6*d.*

Precept for 5000 quarters of corn. December, 1596. Basketmakers 1 quarter Rye, 1 quarter wheat £3 18*s.* 0*d.* One-third part . . . . . £1 6*s.* 0*d.*

Precepts 1602 and 1608 for 10,000 quarters, Basket-makers 8 quarters.

Precept for Meal to be distributed among the Wards (Cheap—1 qr. 4 bus.) February, 1661, Basketmakers—1 bus.

* "The History and Antiquities of London," by Thomas Allen, 1827, vol. i., pp. 299, 300.

The Common Council made an order on the 14th February, 1603/4, for "Assessments on the several Companies for raising £400 for the full performance and finishing of the Pageants, Shows, &c., from the Tower to Temple Bar against the passage of the King and Queen's most excellent Majesties through the City." The Basket-makers were assessed the small proportion of *5s.* 4*d.*

A curious precept is recorded on the 21st January, 1632, as follows:—

> Leveied on the Companies towards the fine imposed on the City for not attaching the murderers of John Lambe (Basket-makers, 16*s.*).

John Lamb (known as "Dr." Lamb) was a favourite of King Charles I. At that time the citizens of London were groaning under an attempted extortion of a large sum of money under the pretence of a loan. Lamb, who was supposed to have advised these arbitrary proceedings, was beaten to death in the City by a mob on the 18th June, 1628. The King being much incensed, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen were ordered by the Privy Council to bring the perpetrators to justice, but apparently this order was disregarded, although the City was threatened with the confiscation of its charter. The matter dragged on until 1632, when the King fined the City six thousand pounds, which was afterwards reduced to fifteen hundred marks.

Owing to the high price of coal in the year 1665 caused by an old-world combine of coal dealers, much hardship was caused to the poor; fifty-six of the City Companies were therefore ordered to purchase and lay up a certain stock of coal between Midsummer and Michaelmas, and to sell the same to the poor in the winter months at a price to be settled by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen. Among the Companies ordered to take part in this benevolent scheme, the Basket-makers were included, the amount of coal they were to stock being fixed at six chaldrons.

LOCALITY AND MEETING PLACES.

No records have been preserved showing where the Basket-makers resided before the middle of the fifteenth century. The earliest trace of the "foreigners" of 1463 is in the old manor of Blanch Appleton previously described. English and alien Basket-makers of a later date (as shown by the accompanying map) appear to have practised their craft in proximity to the chief buyers of their wares; the Fishmongers, Butchers, and Bakers.

Basket Alley in Cripplegate, and Pannier Alley in Newgate Street, no doubt derived their names from trade signs and not from the occupation of the inhabitants. The pannier was an emblem frequently met with when almost every house had its signboard, and a similar use of the basket is evidenced by the sobriquet "atte Basket," first mentioned in the City Records in 1351.*

In an edition of Stow's "Survey," published in 1720,† there appeared a list of the City Companies, giving the situation of their respective

* "Roger Rook called atte Baskette,"—Husting Roll, 79 (37); see also Calendar to Letter Book G, edited by Dr. Sharpe, pp. 53, 172, 310.

† Stow's "Survey" (Strype), 1720, book iii. p. 247–248.

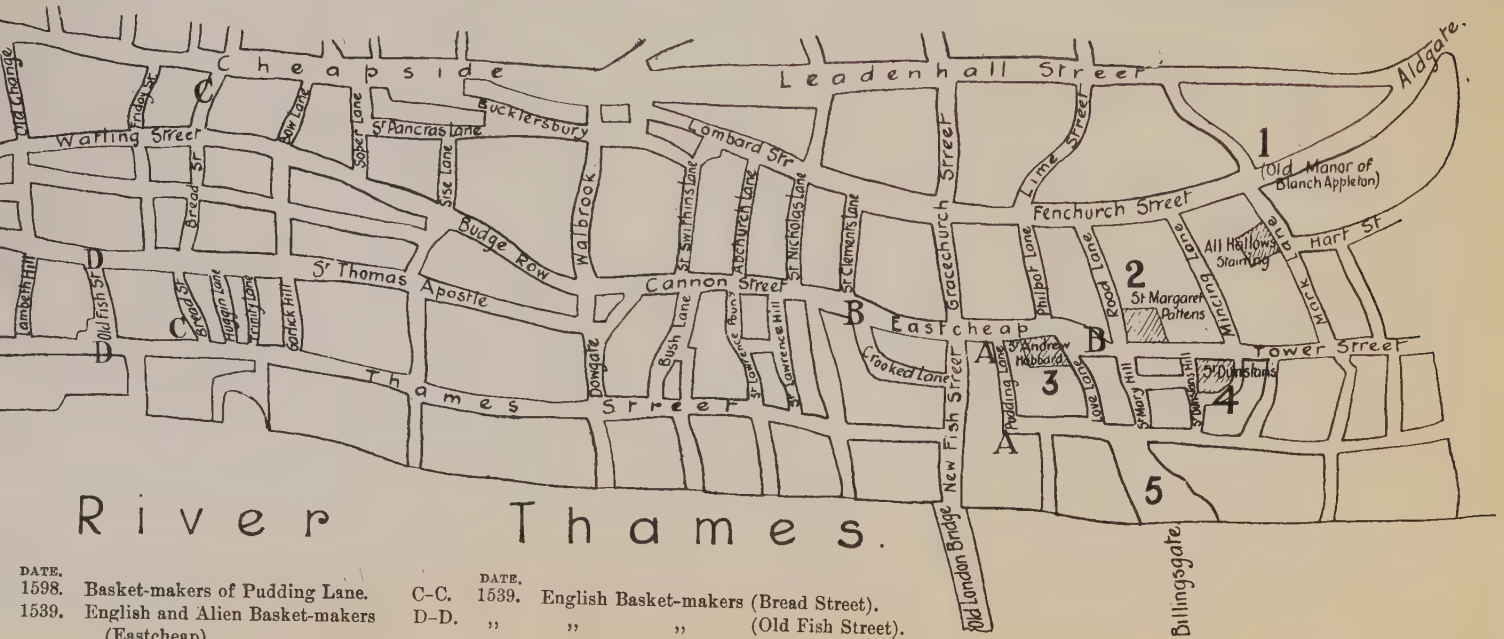
LOCALIZATION OF THE BASKET-MAKERS.

(The dates given are the earliest discoverable.)

TE.
53. Basket-makers of Blanch Appleton ("foreigners").
86. English Basket-makers; Parish of St. Margaret Pattens.

DATE.
3. 1527. English Basket-makers; Parish of St. Andrew Hubbard.
,, 1541. Alien Basket-makers; ,, ,, ,,
4. 1509. ,, ,, ,, St. Dunstan.

DATE.
5. 1539. English Basket-makers (Billingsgate).
,, 1582. Alien Basket-makers ,,



DATE.
1598. Basket-makers of Pudding Lane.
1539. English and Alien Basket-makers (Eastcheap).

C–C. DATE. 1539. English Basket-makers (Bread Street).
D–D. ,, ,, ,, (Old Fish Street).

[*To face page* 78.

Halls.* The Basket-makers' Company was included in this list and their Hall stated to be in Broad Street. There is, however, no trace of this Hall at the present time, nor is there any other record of its existence. Stow refers to this list as having been "drawn up many years ago by Mr. Richard Smith,"† who was appointed Secondary of the Poultry Compter in 1644.‡ Thus it would appear that the Hall cannot have been in the Company's possession at the time of the Great Fire, and the reference to it must have been at an earlier stage of the Company's existence. This is borne out by the entry in the Company's books, written on the 10th January, 1666/7,§ stating that the Basket-makers had for many years before the Fire held their meetings at the Guildhall. This solitary reference to a Basket-makers' Hall leads to the supposition that its inclusion in the list was an error on the part of the Secondary.

In an account of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks by James Christie,‖ mention is made of the fact that the use of their Hall was granted to the Basket-makers' Company in 1613. This was the old Hall ¶ in Broad Lane, in the ward of Vintry.

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* *Vide* Appendix I.

† Died in 1675.

‡ Rep. 57, 234b.

§ *Vide* p. 125.

‖ Christie, "Some Account of Parish Clerks," 1893.

¶ The Second Hall of the Parish Clerks' Company; their first Hall was situated in what is now Clark's Place.

A little later the Company held its Courts at the Guildhall and continued to meet there until the year of the Great Fire. From that time till 1826 the Courts were held at various taverns and coffee-houses,* and occasionally at the Guildhall.

The last meeting which took place in a tavern was held at The Two Brewers, London Wall, on the 23rd November, 1826. It was then resolved by the Court that future quarterly meetings should be held at the Guildhall, and from that date until the 27th October, 1873, the Court met there. From thence to the present time the Company has held its Courts at the Parish Clerks' Hall† in Silver Street, by permission of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks.

In "A General Description of All Trades,"‡ dated 1747, and bearing the imprint of T. Waller, it is stated that the Company "meet to do their business where and when their Warden appoints, commonly once a Quarter when they have a Feast." The Basket-makers occasionally met together for breakfast as well as dinner; but the following extracts from the Wardens' accounts prove that they did not err on the side of extravagance:—

August 24th 1671.

Spent at Breakfast then 00 05 06

* *Vide* Appendix H.

† (The Third Hall) Built in the year 1669.

‡ *Vide* Appendix A.

April 25th 1672.

Spent then at Breakfast & Dinner . . 01 10 08

April 6th 1696.

Meat & Herbs for this daies Dinner . . 01 14 0

July 6th 1696.

To the Dinner at the Herculas Pillers . . 01 01 04

January 12th 1718.

Paid this day for Dinner at the Salutation Tavern . . . . . 2. 11. 3.

Several old dinner-bills have been preserved, of which the following are examples :—

October y^e^ 9th 1765.

To the Worshipfull Companey of Baskett Makers.

To three fowls one goos	0.	10.	0.
To pickold porke	0.	1.	8.
To gravey oysters & Appel sace . . .	0.	1.	4.
To greens	0.	0.	6.
To Bread Butter &c.	0.	2.	0.
To Beer	0.	2.	2¼.
To Wine	0.	10.	0.
To Lemnon and Shugar	0.	0.	3.
For Tobacco	0.	0.	4.
	1.	8.	3¼.
Dressing Dinner	0.	2.	0.
Serv^ts^	0.	1.	6.
	1.	11.	9½.

1774 Y^e^ Worshipfull Companey of Basketmakers 11th July att y^e^ White Hart, Kingsland Road.

To Eating	1.	7.	0.
Beer and tobacco	0.	3.	10.
Wine	0.	12.	0.
Bread &c.	0.	3.	0.
Punch & Brand &c.	0.	11.	4.
Porterage	0.	0.	9.
Servents	0.	2.	0.
Tartes.	0.	3.	0.
	3.	2.	11.

THE WARDENS.

Two Wardens, originally styled Upper Warden and Under Warden * were appointed biennially between the Feasts of St. James and St. Bartholomew. By the ordinances granted to the Company in 1569, the newly elected Wardens were required to attend at the Outer Chamber of the Guildhall, and, in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, swear faithfully to perform the duties of their office.

The oath was in the following terms :—

— You and each of you will well and truly do and execute all and every such things as shall appertain and belong to your office of Warden of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers of the City of London. So help you God.

The ancient custom whereby the wardens of each company made an oath in form similar to the above, dates back to the reign of Edward III., when the Court of Aldermen passed an ordinance that all the companies should be "well and truly" governed and

* Occasionally referred to in the Company's Books as "Renter Warden."

that the wardens elected and sworn should have authority from the Lord Mayor to perform their duties.

One of the earliest of the Company's books records the swearing-in of the Wardens on the 28th July, 1685, namely :—

> The said two Elected Wardens were on the 28th of the said moneth presented to the Lord Mayor's Court and were sworne for the due execucon of their said place.

In the Accounts, dated the 12th July, 1686, the following items are found :—

Paid for swearing the Wardens . .	00.	04.	00.
Paid for a copy of the Warden's Oath .	00.	02.	00.

During the three hundred and forty years of the Company's existence, there is only one instance of a Warden being removed from office. Subjoined are extracts from the City Records referring to the matter :—

JEFFERY, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 20 APRIL, 2 JAMES II. (1686).

Upon Complaint now made unto this Court by the company of Basketmakers ag^{t} Rich^{d} Reading who in July las was admitted upper Warden of the said company for two years then following, that he greatly neglects the duty of that place, and disposes what monies he can get of the companies into his hands, for his owne private use, and not to the use and benefitt of the company And therefore they now praied that he might by this Court be Suspended from further acting in the said place, It is thought fitt and ordered by this Court that unless the said Richard Reading (upon notice to be given him of

this order) shall appear before this Court on this day senight & give to this Court good Satisfaction as to the matter of the said Complaint This Court will then order his Suspension according to the sd companies desire.*

GEFFERY MAIOR.

TUESDAY 27 APRIL, 2 JAMES II. (1686).

Whereas upon complaint made at the last court by the company of Basketmakers ag^{t} Rich^{d} Reding one of their Wardens for declining the Service of his place and disposing the companies money to his private use. It was agreed that unless he appeared here this day to answer the said complaint, this court would Suspend him from the said place, And whereas the said Richard Reading (having had timely notice of the said order by a copy thereof left at his house) did notwithstanding fail now to appear before this Court to vindicate himselfe from the matter of the said complaint This court doth therefore Suspend him from the said place untill this day Señight And doth resolve (if he shall not then apper befort this court and justifie himselfe herein) absolutely to dismisse and discharge him and order the choice of another in his roome, And it is ordered that a Copy hereof be left at the said Mr. Reading's house in the meantime. †

GEFFERY, MAIOR.

TUESDAY 4 MAY, 2 JAMES II. (1686).

Whereas upon complaint formerly made to this Court by the company of Basketmakers ag^{t} Richard Reading one of their Wardens for wholly declining the Service of his place and converting the Companies money by him received to his owne private use, he hath had severall dayes prefixed him to appear before this Court and vindicate

* Rep. 91, fol. 76.

† Rep. 91, fol. 80b.

himselfe in the said matter, notwithstanding which he hath still failed to make his appearance before this court or justifie himselfe in reference to the said charge, This court therefore according to the Resolucon here taken at the last court doth absolutely dismisse & discharge him from the said place and order that another fitting person be chosen into the said place in his stead according to the Rules and usages of the said company.*

A few days later the Company chose a new Warden, the election being thus recorded in the Company's books:—

MAY 11TH 1686.

Richard Reading being dismissed by the Court of Aldreñ from his place of Upper Warden by reason of his neglecting the Companye's buisnesse and converting their money to his owne private use Mr ffielder and Mr Dickenson were put in nomination for one of them to hold the said place of Upper Warden for the remainder of the 2 yeares and by plurality of hands, Mr ffielder was chosen.

In the Wardens' Accounts for quarter day, 12th July, 1686, this item occurs:—

Paid Charges in getting Mr Reading discharged from his Wardenship . . . . 02. 05. 06.

On the 20th August, 1695, the Court of Assistants passed a resolution that the Upper Wardens should within seven days after election:—

Signe seale execute and deliver to Three of the Eldest Assistants on y^e^ behalfe of the said Company one Bond or obligacon of a reasonable penalty with Two good and sufficient persons or suretys &c.

* Rep. 91, fol. 83.

The Wardens—provided they had an officer of the Lord Mayor with them—had full power to enter the houses and shops of Basket-makers to "search, view and oversee" all baskets and materials for their manufacture. It was the duty of the Wardens to see that the ordinances were observed, and also that they were read four times a year in the presence of the commonalty of the Company.

Objection to assuming office on election was met with a fine, as may be seen from the examples here given :—

JANUARY 22ND, 1671.

It is this day agreed and ordered that Mr Paul Allestry upon payment of ffoure pounds shall be discharged and excused for ever hereafter from being chosen or bearing the place or office of Warden of this Company Which said summe was paid And he accordingly discharged.

MAY 11TH, 1686.

Mr Slyford being this day chosen Under Warden did desire to be excused from the same, and for ever from all manner of Offices, and submitted to a ffine of ffive pounds, which he accordingly paid And the said Mr Slyford is by this Court discharged from ever being selected Warden or other Office in the said Company.

JULY Y$_E$ 24TH 1707.

This day Mr John Olly appearing in this Court and desiring to be excused from the service of Warden for the Two ensuing yeares for which he was lately chosen under Warden and also to be exempted from the service of

upper Warden when soever he should be chosen alledging that his multiplicity of buisnes would prevent him from his due performance of the said office and desireing to pay such ffine for the same as this Court should think fitt not exceeding ffive Pounds This Court by the majority agreed to ffoure Guineas for the same & the same was accordingly received of the said Mr John Olly.

QUARTER DAY APRIL 13TH 1719.

This day at y^e^ Request of Mr. W^m^ Board the p̄sent Under Warden of this Company for to ffine for his Office of Upper Warden for his Two yeares commenceing from Midsomer next And Mr Board agreeing to such ffine for y^e^ same as the Company should think fit, the same was put to the vote and it was by the majority agreed that his ffine shalbe ffour Pounds.

An instance of a refusal to assume office and the penalty for so doing is recorded at a meeting of the court held the 11th October, 1732:—

Memd. At this Court the Clerk acquainted the Company that Mr. Bott being served w^th^ a Warrant from the L^d^ Mayor for his contempt in not appearing to his Lordships Sumonds & for refusing to serve as Under Warden to this Company The s^d^ Mr Bott had Submitted to pay his ffine of Under Warden & had pd the same accordingly together with his arrears of quarteridge & some small part of the Charges as by the Upper Wardens acco^ts^ appears, Upon w^ch^ the s^d^ Mr Bott was excused from serving the s^d^ office: And it being put to the Question whether the proceedings of the Upper Warden in this behalf were approved of by the Company or not, It was resolved in the affirmative.

In the Wardens' Accounts dated the 9th July, 1733, the following appears:—

Mr. Bott for his ffine not serving Upper Warden . . . . . 5. 0. 0.

The last occasion on which the Wardens were sworn on taking office is recorded in the Company's books as follows:—

29TH JULY 1819.

The Upper and Under Warden with the Clerk attended at the Upper Court of the Lord Mayor of the City of London and were sworn to the due execution of their Office in the following form :—

Richard Allum and Thomas Okey, you and each of you swear that you will well and truly do and execute all and every such things as shall appertain and belong to your Office of Wardens of the Basket Makers' Company of the City of London.

So help you God.

A complete list of the Wardens from the year 1661, as well as a few names of earlier date, are given in the Appendix.

THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS.

On reference to the Ordinances of 1569 it will be noted that no mention of Assistants is made therein, though they are no doubt implied in the provision that "the old Wardens shall yield up their account to the new Wardens and *three or four other persons* * of the said craft." The only two occasions on which Assistants are mentioned occur in the Ordinances granted later in 1585, as follows :—

(*a*) "No man enfranchised, as aforesaid, shall receive into his service any journeyman without the consent of the Wardens of the said Company, and four of the Assistants."

(*b*) "No man enfranchised in the said Company, being a journeyman, as long as he shall work journey-work, shall take or keep any Apprentice without the Wardens' consent and four of the Assistants."

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* The first suggestion of the office of "Assistant" in connection with the City companies occurs in the records of the Grocers for the year 1379, as follows :—"At y^e^ furst congregaycon of y^e^ wardeyns there shall be chosin six of y^e^ companie to be helpyng and counsellynge of y^e^ same wardeyns for the yeere followinge." They do not appear to have been described as "Assistants" before the commencement of the 16th century. *Vide* Herbert, "History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies, 1837," vol. i. pp. 53, 54.

Although the Ordinances are silent regarding the manner of the appointment of Assistants, and their powers and duties are not stated therein, it was an early practice for wardens of companies to appoint persons enfranchised in the craft to assist them—a custom which can be traced back to the early Saxon Gilds. In the absence therefore of special provisions in the Basket-makers' regulations, the inference is that the customary powers of wardens in such matters were allowed. This seems to be borne out by the Wardens' Oath provided in the first Ordinance, namely: "that they shall execute such things belonging to their office according to the custom of the City, and as the Wardens of other Companies do."

An early trace of the office of Assistant is found in the Petition of the 27th March, 1610, submitted to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen. From this document we find that the first recorded Assistants were six in number.* From the above date to the 14th October, 1723, the number varied from six to sixty-eight, when they were ordered to be reduced to thirty, as shown by the Quarter book:—

Agreed and Ordered That no more Assistants be chosen until the p[r]sent Assistants which now are 68 be reduced to 30 persons unless upon some perticular occations of some extraordinary Person or Persons such as the majority of the Company shall think fitt.

* Clement Holmes, Adrian Adrianson, William Addersburie, William Weatlie, Thomas Oliffe and John Clarke.

The Quarter book records the fact that on the 28th September, 1776, "Ten others were put in nomination as proper persons to be on the Court of Assistants and were all unanimously chosen."

At the present time the number of Assistants is limited to twenty-five.

The earliest recorded fine payable by an Assistant on election to the Court was 3*s.* 4*d.*, the following being the first entry of such payment:—

JANUARY 12TH, 1662.

This day William Perrey was admitted an Assistant and paid 00 03 04

The fine remained unaltered for seven years, after which it was very considerably increased, as shown by the extract from the Quarter book given below:—

JULY 5TH 1669.

This day upon debate It was resolved agreed on & so it is Ordered that for the future every person that shall be admitted an Assistant to y^e^ Wardens of this Company shall pay for a ffyne the some of fforty shillings sterling before his admission.

In the year 1819 the fine was advanced to £2 14*s.* 6*d.*, and on successive occasions has been further increased.

The Court of Assistants was an active body established to assist the Wardens in seeing that the ordinances were observed; it was commissioned to search for defective wares, and its

duties in the past, when the Company had powers of control over the trade, were no doubt onerous. The following extract from the books shows that the office was at one time irksome and not always appreciated :—

JULY 13TH 1674.

fforasmuch as Richard ffuller and James Alwinckle appeare not to doe service, and to execute their places of Assistants It is ordered That they shall be discharged from their said places And they are hereby accordingly discharged.

AUGUST 20TH 1688.

Rec^{d} of Mr Richard Rose the sum of ffive pounds seaven shillings and sixpence in full for his being excused and discharged from all offices of this Company (Quarteridge excepted).

Refusal to assume office after election appears to have been a serious matter :—

QUARTER DAY, JANUARY Y^{E} 28TH, 1694.

Expended in sumoning Mr. Poulten before y^{e} Lord Mayor for refuseing comeing on the Assistants &c. 00 07 05

THE LIVERY.

The wearing of liveries was restricted by statute * in the reign of Richard II., and only allowed by the king's licence. For some considerable period this distinction was prohibited by Acts of Parliament, but these enactments did not refer to the liveries of the Companies, though several attempts were made to include them, with the object of curtailing their growing influence in City politics.

It will be remembered in connection with the Company's petition for a charter after the Restoration, that the Attorney-General advised the Crown not to bring the Basket-makers upon the Livery of the City. This objection was doubtless urged on account of the part the City had lately played in the Civil War.

The first record of efforts made by the Basket-makers to obtain a grant, occurs in the year 1775. This important matter was from time to time under their consideration; but there seem to have been financial difficulties in the early stages of the proceedings, for it was not until 1825—fifty years after the matter was first

* 13 Rich. II.

brought forward—that a Livery was obtained; a testimony to the perseverance shown by those interested in the welfare of the Company.

The first steps taken are thus recorded in the Company's books:—

At a meeting of the Wardens and Court of Assistants held at the House of Mr. Oliver the sign of the Bell in Basinghall Street the 3rd day of March 1775. It is Unanimously Agreed, having advised with Mr. Holder relative to obtaining the Livery for the Company, and the said Mr. Holder having Informed the Court that the expence thereof will not Exceed forty Pounds We who are Present agree to subscribe for the above Purpose the Particular Sum against our names Respectively:—

	£	s.	d.
John Havall	5.	5.	0.
Richard Allum	5.	5.	0.
Samuel Pryer Sen. . . .	5.	5.	0.
William White	5.	5.	0.
Benjamin Phillips . . .	3.	3.	0.
Robert Kemshead . . .	0.	0.	0.
Richard Hollingsworth . .	5.	5.	0.

At a Court of Assistants held on the 13th September, 1780, it was resolved:—

That the money arising from Quarterage and from every other income of the Company of Basket Makers, London, be put in the hands of Trustees in order to raise a sum of money to enable the said Company to become a Livery Company, and that the Wardens for the time being, be the Trustees for the purpose before mentioned.

In that year the income of the Company was very small, and the prospect of obtaining a Livery appeared somewhat remote.

No further attempt was made until 1810,

when the matter was again brought forward, for at a meeting of the Court, held on the 6th of December of that year, this entry occurs in the minutes :—

It being understood that this company can be made a Livery Company at the expense of £60 or thereabouts the several persons above named agreed to contribute and pay an equal proportion of the expense of obtaining same.

The following was recorded at a meeting of the Court held on the 12th August, 1811 :—

Many Members of the Company being desirous of obtaining a Livery, and a Petition to the Court of Aldermen for that purpose being read the same was approved of and signed by the Freemen present.

The petition presented to the Court of Aldermen, and referred to a Committee of that body on the 28th January, 1812, was as follows :—

To

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London.

The humble petition of the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Company of Basket Makers of the City of London.

Sheweth :—

That the Company of Basket Makers of London have been from time immemorial and are a Company by prœcription and have been frequently recognised as such by your Honourable Court and your Honourable Court in the year 1482 * in the second year of the reign of King Edward the Fourth Sir thomas Cooke being then Mayor

* An error for 1463, the reference being to the Order of Common Council made the 12th October [3 Edward IV.], *vide* p. 7.

Also in the year 1537 * in the 30th year of the reign of King Henry the 8th Sir thomas Gresham being then Mayor and likewise in the year 1569 in the 10th † year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth in the Mayoralty of [Wolstane] Dixie ‡ as well as in the year 1610 in the reign of King James the 1st and the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Campbell made and ordered several Rules and Bye-laws which they judged would be for the benefit and good government of the said Company of Basket Makers and for the support of the Rights and Interests of the said Company and the regulation of the goods and wares manufactured by the Craft thereof.

That the said Company of Basket Makers have from time to time contributed borne and paid their full and due proportion and share of the contributions and duties from time to time paid by the other Companies of the City of London.

That the said Company of Basket Makers labours under great disadvantage in not being invested with a Livery in several respects and not being held in the esteem of a Livery Company is greatly injured as it is presumed in the increase of its numbers and thereby the public in many instances deprived of the benefit and advantage of the said Company as many Merchants warehousemen and tradesmen not makers of but dealers in and exporters of baskets of different denominations (as the said Company have great reason to believe) in case the said Company was a Livery Company would become Members thereof and thereby be subject to the Laws search and examination of and who at present not being Members of the said Company it hath no control over nor the power which the said Company of Basket Makers would in that case have within the liberties of the City of London and its vicinity.

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* This date should be 1538, *vide* p. 18.

† This should be the "11th year."

‡ The name mentioned is an error. Sir Thomas Rowe was mayor in that year, *vide* p. 31.

That divers Members of the said Company are of considerable substance and are able and willing to bear the expense attending a Livery and to contribute and assist on all public occasions to the honour dignity and service of this City.

That your Petitioners humbly apprehend that if a Livery was granted to the said Company it would be of great benefit and advantage thereto and an encouragement to a valuable and extensive branch of Trade as by means thereof the persons using and exercising the art or mystery of Basket Makers would be more ready to take their freedom of the said Company and many Merchants warehousemen and other traders exporters of baskets (altho' not makers thereof) would become Members of the said Company the same being on a respectable footing equal with the rest of their fellow citizens who are entitled to the benefits and privileges which can be enjoyed by the Liverymen of the City of London only.

That your Petitioners in their said trade of Basket Makers are very instrumental in increasing the annual landed Income and Revenues of the City of London inasmuch as they are the purchasers and workers of the rods and osiers growing upon various parts of the lands and estates of the said City and which lands unless as at present so profitable and beneficially applied to the growth and production of osiers rods and willows would be almost totally unproductive to the revenue thereof And your Petitioners beg leave to suggest to your Honourable Court that by granting them a Livery and thereby placing them in a state of respectability equal with the rest of their fellow citizens a constant and ready market would be found for the produce of the lands of the City of London and an annual increasing Income be made to the Revenues thereof.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly Pray this Honourable Court to invest the said Company of Basket

Makers with a Livery under such restrictions and regulations as to this Honourable Court shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, etc.

The extracts given below are from the minutes of subsequent meetings of the Court:—

6TH FEBRUARY 1812.

Mr. Allum reported that he had together with the Clerk attended the Court of Aldermen when Sir Charles Price presented the Petition which was referred to a Committee of the Court of Aldermen.

Resolved that this Court and such of the Company as can make it convenient do meet at the Baptist Head Coffee House, Aldermanbury on such day and hour as shall be appointed to proceed from thence to the Committee of the Court of Aldermen appointed to take the petition of this Company for a Livery into consideration.

10TH FEBRUARY 1812.

The Court proceeded to attend the Court of Aldermen on the subject of the Petition but nothing definite was done.

No further progress was made until the 25th March, 1825, when the following brief reference relating to the matter is found:—

The subject of obtaining a Livery was discussed.

On the 29th March, 1825—thirteen years after the presentation of the Petition—a Livery limited to thirty was granted by the Court of Aldermen, and on the 12th April following it was resolved at a meeting of the Court:—

That the Clerk attend the Comptroller's Office Guildhall London and obtain the Certificate and other Documents necessary for authenticating the Right of the Company to a Livery.

On 1st July in the same year the Clerk reported :—

That the Certificate of a Livery having been granted to this Company by the Court of Aldermen, was ready and that the Fee thereon exclusive of his account in respect thereof was £50.

At the next meeting of the Court held on the 6th July, 1825, the Chairman reported "That he had procured the Certificate from the Town Clerk's Office, Guildhall, that a Livery had been granted to the Company by the Court of Aldermen," when it was resolved—

That the Certificate be entered on the Minutes of the Court as follows :—

Tuesday the 29th day of March 1825 and in the Sixth year of the Reign of George the fourth of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King &c.

Garratt, Mayor

The Committee of Privileges did this day deliver unto this Court a Report in writing under their hands recommending a Livery to be granted to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers which was read in these words :—

To the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen.

In Obedience to an Order of this Honourable Court of the Twenty eighth day of January 1812 We whose Names are hereunto subscribed being appointed (amongst

others) to examine the Allegations of the Petition of the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Company of Basketmakers of the City of London relating to their being made a Livery Company of this City and to report our Opinions thereon to this Court do humbly certify that we have accordingly met and examined into the Allegations of their said Petition and do find that the said Company of Basketmakers have been from time immemorial and are a Company by prescription and have been frequently recognized as such and have from time to time contributed borne and paid their full and due proportion and share of the contributions and duties as paid by the other Companies of this City.

That the Members of the said Company are admitted to the freedom of this City by the Chamberlain and bind Apprentices according to the Custom of London who on the expiration of their terms are duly admitted to the freedom by virtue of their Service and the Children of the Members of the said Company are also admitted to the freedom by Patrimony and this Court have been pleased from time to time to allow and order persons to be admitted into the freedom of this City in the said Company of Basketmakers by Redemption.

And we also find That the said Company labours under great disadvantages in not being invested with a livery in several respects and in not being held in the esteem of a Livery Company is greatly injured as it is presumed in the increase of its Members.

That divers Members of the said Company are of considerable substance and are able and willing to bear the Expense attending a Livery and to contribute and assist on all public occasions to the Honour and Dignity and Service of the City And we find that if a Livery was granted to the said Company it would be of great Benefit and advantage thereto and an Encouragement to a most valuable and extensive Branch of the British Trade as by means thereof the persons using or exercising the Art or Mystery of Basketmaker would be more ready to take

their Freedom of the said Company and many Merchants Warehousemen and other Traders not makers of but dealers in and exporters of that Commodity would become members of the said Company the same being on a respectable footing equal with the rest of their fellow Citizens who are entitled to the Benefits and Privileges which by the custom of this City can be enjoyed by the Liverymen only and after duly considering thereof it does appear to us that the complying with the Prayer of their Petition will be beneficial to the said Company by encouraging and promoting the increase of their Members and contribute to the dignity and Service of this City by enabling them to attend and assist on all Public occasions. We are therefore of Opinion that they should be created and made a Livery Company of this City and that the said Livery should be granted unto them under the qualifications and conditions following (that is to say) that their Livery Fine be set at the Sum of Twenty Pounds Sterling and the Sum of Thirteen Shillings and Four pence to the Clerk and Six shillings and eight pence to the Beadle that the number on their Livery should not at any time exceed Thirty that they admit no person to their Livery without such person first produce the Copy of his freedom of the City of London. That they be subject to the several Orders of this Court respecting Livery Companies. That no member of their Company who is of the Clothing of any other Company of the City should be called on the Livery of their Company before he be translated from such other Company openly in this Court according to the ancient Custom of this City. That they do not compel any person to take upon him the Clothing or Livery without his free consent. That they be enjoined to a constant attendance upon the Lord Mayor for the time being upon all public Solemnities and that the Master & Wardens of the said Company of Basketmakers for the time being do return annually on or before the Twenty fifth day of December to the Town Clerk's Office a List of their Livery with their places of abode All

which we submit to the Judgment of this Honourable Court dated this 29th day of March 1825.

R. C. Glyn.
Jas. Shaw.
Matts. P. Lucas.

Which Report was well liked and approved and confirmed by this Court and Ordered to be entered in the Repertory and in all things performed And it is further Ordered that the Attornies of the outer Court do take care that Precepts be for the future sent to the said Company of Basketmakers upon all occasions as to the other Livery Companies of this City.

Woodthorpe.

The earliest record of voting is found in "A List of the Liverymen who polled for the Lord Mayor in 1831," as follows:—

BASKET MAKERS.

Harris John, 39 Clements Lane.
Mullard William, 27 London Wall.
Okey Thomas, White-rose-court, Spitalfields.
Tucker George, Belmont-row, Bethnal Green.
Walden Samuel, Whitefriars.

In 1877 the number allowed on the Livery had been attained, and freemen seeking election had to wait until vacancies occurred. Twenty-four years later the question of obtaining an increase having been considered, a meeting of the Court of the Company was held on the 16th October, 1901, when it was resolved "That application be made to the Court of Aldermen for an increase of the Livery," and the following Petition was submitted:—

To

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London.

The humble petition of the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers in the City of London.

Sheweth:—

That on the Twenty Ninth day of March One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Five your Honourable Court was pleased to order that the Company of Basket Makers be created and made a Livery Company, the number to be admitted not to exceed Thirty.

Your Petitioners beg leave to represent to your Honourable Court that the number of persons now on the Livery of the Company have reached the permitted number of Thirty, and that there are several highly respected persons desirous of becoming Freemen of the said Company and of being admitted to the Livery thereof, but by reason of the aforesaid order of your Honourable Court limiting the number of Liverymen to Thirty, your Petitioners are unable to admit them to that privilege.

Your Petitioners submit that an increase in the number of their Livery will conduce to the benefit of the said Company, and be an advantage to the Citizens of London and to the public generally.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honourable Court will be pleased to take the premises into consideration, and grant an increase of not exceeding One Hundred to the number of the Livery of the said Company, under such regulation and orders for the honour and dignity of this Company as your Honourable Court shall think fit.

This Petition was received by the Court of Aldermen, and on the recommendation of the Committee of Privileges as set forth in the

following Report, the Livery was increased to eighty :—

A Court of Mayor and Aldermen holden in the Inner Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, the 10th day of December 1901, and in the 1st year of the reign of Edward the Seventh, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King &c.

Dimsdale, Mayor.

The General Purposes Committee did this day deliver unto this Court a Report in writing under their hands on the Reference of the 12th November last on the Petition of the Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Company of Basket Makers, for an addition to their Livery, and recommending that the number of the Livery be increased from 30 to 80 upon condition that they do not exceed that number and that the Order of this Court of the 29th March 1825 in relation to the admission of persons to the Livery and of the payment of the fine in full upon such admission be strictly adhered to which was read.

Which Report was well liked and approved by this Court and It is Ordered accordingly.

Monckton.

APPRENTICES.

The usual provisions for the binding of Apprentices were made in the Ordinances of 1569. Freemen were permitted to have four but not more, under a penalty of 20*s*. In the Ordinances of 1585 an exception was made to this rule in favour of any past Warden of the Company, who was allowed to keep five, while the same Ordinances provided that no journeyman basket-maker should keep an apprentice, without the consent of the Wardens and four Assistants.

The earliest records of the Company reveal an old custom whereby the Apprentices on obtaining their freedom presented the Company with a silver spoon.* In many cases these spoons were stamped with the initials of the donors.

The first entry, dated the 8th September, 1661, is as follows:—

This day William Scott late apβntice of Robert Harding was upon his testimony made free and paid his enableing money .	00 03 04
And gave a silver spoone marked with the letters	WS.

* A list is given in the Appendix D. The spoons received prior to September 2nd, 1666, were destroyed in the Great Fire (*vide* p. 126). Those received after that date were sold (*vide* p. 132).

In 1669 this obligation was extended to persons who were made free otherwise than by servitude; for on July the 5th of that year the Court ordered:—

That every person which shall be made free shall pay duties to y^e^ Company 10^s^ 4^d^ and shall give a Silver Spoon or 10^s^ in lieu thereof.

The custom was in force until July the 3rd, 1671, when the Court resolved:—

That for the future every person that shall be admitted a freeman of this Company shall pay twenty shillings in money and noe spoone.

An early entry in the Roll of Apprentices reveals the uncommon Christian name of "Alderman":—

APRIL THE 10TH, 1655.

Alderman Hobbs sonne of Willm Hobbs of Twittenham in the Countie of Midd. Painter doth put himselfe app'ntice to Anthony Watts Citizen and Basketmaker of London for 8 yeeres frõ the ffeast of the Purification of the blessed Lady St Mary the Virgin last.

His admission to the freedom is recorded in the Company's books as follows:—

APRIL 11TH 1670.

Alderman Hobbs apprentice of Anthony Watts was upon his test.* made free and paid for a Spoone x^s^ and viij^s^ & iiij^d^ . .	00	18	04

On the 12th November, 1694, there is a record of a girl† being bound:—

* Testimony.

† Women were admitted to the Freedom of the Company.

Of ye Clerke for ye binding of a Girl to Mr. Berry 00 05 00

There is one record of an illegal indenture and a fine in consequence :—

JULY 29TH 1698.

This day Hugh Roberts the apprentice of the said Robert Lye a ffreeman of this Company was made free & paid . . . 01 00 00

The said Robert Lye upon Consideracon & inquiery into the legallity of the binding to him of the said Hugh Roberts the Apprentice & finding him to be bound privately by a scrivener or some other person not with the knowledge of the Company and contrary to the custome & rules of the same was for the same offence fined & paid 01 00 00

The following (of which there are many similar entries) is recorded in the Company's books on 8th April, 1717 :—

	£	s.	d.
To the Chamberlin for Thirty Six Bindings for the Orphans as by the receipt in ye Booke *	4	10	0

Indentures with "free sisters" are recorded as late as the end of the eighteenth century, when the practice of admitting women to the freedom had almost ceased.† The following is found under date the 5th July, 1742 :—

* A binding fee of 2*s.* 6*d.* due to the Chamberlain was appropriated by Act of Parliament for the relief of orphans.

† The last occasion was on 31st May 1832 when a Widow was "admitted and sworn a Freewoman by Redemption."

At this Court Richard Wheatley living opposite Ventners' Hall in Thames Street who was bound Apprentice to Sarah Evans Widow of Benjamin Evans Citizen and Basket Maker of London was this day made free of this Company and paid Twenty Shillings.

A few examples of the early entries in the Company's books recording admissions to the freedom, or "turnovers" of Apprentices are given below:—

JANUARY 20TH 1667.

This day Robert White late the apprentice of Jane Deacon widow and afterwards turned over to William Slyford was upon his test. made free and paid	00 03 04

JULY 3RD 1671.

This day John Love son of John Love of Cambridge in the County of Cambridge Basketmaker who was by Indenture dated the thirteenth day of Aprill 1664 bound unto William Scott was upon his testimony made free and paid in respect of noe spoone	01 00 00

JULY 3RD 1671.

This day William Ault son of George Ault of Gildersloy in the County of Derby husbandman who was bound the seaventh of May 1664 unto Richard Cobham was upon his Mrs testimony made free and in respect of the smallnesse of his spoone paid	00 12 00 & a spoone

JANUARY 18th 1675.

This day John White late Appntice of Peter Valine was turned over to Samuell Puller of the same trade for that his Master is gone beyond Sea and left him to goe at large	ij^{s}	vj^{d}

JANUARY 11TH 1685.

Thomas Leech Appntice of James Dickenson and afterwards turned over to Isaac Stone was upon his test. made free and paid . 01 00 00

JULY 12TH 1686.

John Emerton Appntice of John ffranklin was upon his test. made free and paid . . 01 00 00

MAY 11TH 1687.

Timothy ffarmer Appntice of Richard fflaggett upon the test. of Rich[d] Spackman Armorer. 01 00 00

JUNE 21ST 1687.

John Norris Appntice of John Barrett Citizen and Vintner was this day turned over to John Olley Citizen and Basketmaker of the same trade for the residue of the terme & paid 00 02 06

JUNE 29TH 1688.

George Brookes Appntice of William Rymes decd. was upon the test. of Richard Morris (in fforestreet) Citizen and Bricklayer made free and paid 01 00 00

JULY 15TH 1689.

William Harrison Apprentice of Thomas Hall decd. was upon the test. of Widow Hall his Mistris made free and paid . . . 01 00 00

JULY 14TH 1690.

William Constable Appntice of Alderman * Hobbs was upon the test. of Thomas Hodgkins, Blacksmith made free and paid . .	01	00	00

SEPTEMBER 24TH 1690.

William Tomlinson Appntice of Adrian Pearson deced. was upon the test. of John Geast Citizen and Haberdasher made free and paid	01	00	00

* *Vide* p. 107.

CONTROL OF THE TRADE.

The Company made full and continuous use of the powers granted by their Ordinances until the middle of the eighteenth century, and confiscation of defective wares and summonses for not conforming to the rules and regulations, were of frequent occurrence.

There is an early reference in the City Books to foreign-made baskets—an order by the Court of Mayor and Aldermen, forbidding a Basketmaker to purchase certain kinds of imported wares. It is stated therein that some defects were found in the Company's Ordinance granted a few months previously,* and it was directed that the same should be remedied; but there is no trace of any steps having been taken to amend the regulation in question. The order is as follows :—

CAMPBELL, MAIOR.

Friday 22 June, 8 James I. (1610).

Itm̃ this day the Company of Basketmakers made Complaint unto this Court against one Jerome Benton for the breach of an order heretofore established by the Lord

* 27th March, 1610.

Maior and this Court wherin it was concluded and agreed that no freeman of that Company should at any time hereafter buy of a foreyner any covered Basketts fflasketts Stake maunde and Tymber ware upon payne to forfeite for every tyme so offending the some of twenty shillings, and refuseth to pay the penaltie soe by the said court inflicted upon him: Whereupon this Court taking beter consideracon of the said Order and finding some defects therein have ordered that the same shalbe redressed and amended and in the meane tyme the said Benton was by this Court forbiden to buy any more wares of foryners according to the tenor of the said order.*

It is evident that Jerome Benton (or Banton), a freeman of the Turners' Company, long resented the action of the Basket-makers, to whom he was no doubt a perpetual source of annoyance, and in the old days "going on search" was apparently a duty not unattended with some personal risk:—

PROBY, MAIOR.

THURSDAY, 20 MARCH, 20 JAMES I. ($16\frac{23}{24}$).

Item upon complaint made unto this Courte by the Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Basket māks. of London, against Jeremye Banton, Cittizen and Turn of London, by trade a baskettmaker, for that he muche abused the wardens for the tyme being with unseemly and disordered speeches, haveing entred into his shope and warehouse, by his owne free leave to vewe and see his wares, whether theye were made of good and seasonable stuffe, according to the orders of this Courte heretofore made and confirmed, for the good Goverm[t] of that Company, for that the said Banton, did then violently without cause, beate Richard Bingham upper warden of the said

* Rep. 29, fol. 246b.

company and fetched blood of him. The said Banton was convented before this Courte, And forasmuche as hee confessed and acknowledged his said fault with an expression of hartie sorrowe, and humblie upon his knee submitted himselfe, to the Wardens of that Company, desiring theire favoures and willingly deposited in Courte a fyne of ffortie shillinges, for his Offence & paid to the Sheriffs iij^{s} iiij^{d} for blood sheed, This Courte with the good like and consent of the Wardens was pleased to remitt this his offence and receave him into favoure, And xx^{s} of the said fyne of xl^{s} was by this Court deliv^{d} unto the said Bingham in recompence of his hurt and the other xx^{s} was deliv^{d} unto the other Warden to bee disposed of by the Company att theire discretion, And by consent of parties it is ordered, that noe suite shall hereafter be psequited on either side for & touching this cause.*

The following extracts from the Company's books illustrate the right of search and power to confiscate bad materials, or baskets inefficiently made :—

1661.

Paid an officer for seizeing 10,000 of twigg at Bull Wharfe	00	05	00

1662.

Spent in a search that day †	00	18	02

1663.

Received in severall searches this yeare . .	00	16	05

1667.

Spent in having A Spilton Basketmaker before the Chamberlain	00	02	06

* Rep. 37, fol. 130.

† Between the years 1661 and 1700, there are many entries of payments made on "Search Day"—an occasional day set apart for searching Basket-makers' shops.

1667.

Laid out for wharfage and seizing foure dozen and two baskets	00	07	00
Laid out and spent at seizeing the skreene basketts	00	06	00

1667.

Paid for warneing Mr. Harrington and William Rymes before the Lord Major . . .	00	04	00
Paid Mr. Hall by him laid out for prosecuting the hucksters	00	10	00

1667.

Paid in the businesse of the skreene basketts touching hawking	00	10	00

1670.

Laid out about six dozen of Prickell and three dozen of Crosse Basketts at Queenehith .	00	06	00

Unseasonable materials and badly made baskets, when confiscated, were deposited at the Guildhall, and a jury impanelled to examine the wares, which, if found defective, were destroyed, an instance from the City Records is here given :—

SHELDON, MAYOR.

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE, 28 CHAS. II. (1676).

Whereas the Wardens of the Company of Basket-makers have lately in pursuance of their Charter * and the Ordinances of the said Company seized in the Hands of severall Persons of their Art a certain quantity of Wares by them Discovered to be Defective and not well made which are

* The word "Charter" is evidently used here in a popular sense.

now remaining in the Hands of Mr Man Keeper of the Guild hall Now at the Humble desire of the Wardens and Assistants of the said Company that the said Wares may be destroyed according to their Ordinances and the Customes of this City in that behalf It is thought fit and Ordered by this Court That a Jury be Impannelled to Enquire thereof And if they shall finde the same to be defective That then they be destroyed accordingly.*

The decision of the jury does not appear to have been recorded on the above occasion, but in the following year an entry in the Company's books records a similar case resulting in the burning of the wares:—

25TH JULY 1677.

Paid for a triall about badd and defective ware and to obteine an order of the Court of Aldermen for burneing of the same .	vij^{li} xv^{s} vj^{d}
Paid to witnesses for carrying the ware into Smithfeild and other charges when the same was burnt and consumed	lvj^{s}

The Company's books contain numerous entries showing the extent of the authority exercised by the Court of Assistants over the freemen, and the opposition to "foreigners."

Subjoined are a few examples:—

OCTOBER 11TH 1669.

It is this day ordered that for the future all persons free of this Company and who use the trade of Basket-making that imploy Journeymen shall see to the payment of their Journeymens quarteridge as well free as forraine.

* Rep. 81, fol. 207b.

AUGUST 24TH 1671.

Spent at Bartholemew faire * Search . . 06 15 00

JANUARY 20TH 1672.

This day Richard ffuller was fined at vij^{s} for not appearing in Eleaven Quarter dayes.

John ffarrington fined at vij^{s} for not appearing in Eleaven Quarters.

William Robinson fined xix^{s}, viij^{d} for not appearing Thirty Quarters.

John Dickenson fined ix^{s} viij^{d} for not appearing ffifeteene Quarters.

John Shepheard fined vj^{s} iiij^{d} for not appearing ten Quarters.

APRIL 14TH 1673.

This day Edward Harper was fined for setting a Journeyman of Mr Harding on work . 00 06 00

MAY 27TH 1673.

Given an Officer to Warne Harrison before the Lord Major 00 02 00

OCTOBER 6TH 1673.

This day John ffarington was fined for imploying a Journeyman without leave of the Wardens.

APRIL 6TH 1674.

This day was John Deale fined vj viij for every Journeyman he keeps without the leave of the Wardens.

JUNE 7TH 1677.

Spent about getting an order to destroy ware v^{s} x^{d}

* At Bartholomew Fair a search for defective baskets was regularly made, and fines levied. The fair was held in West Smithfield on St. Bartholomew's Day (August 24th) from 1133 to 1855.

OCTOBER 17TH 1681.

Paid Thomas Hayes * for looking after ffor-
reigners 00 02 06

NOVEMBER 12TH 1690.

This day Thomas Street being formerly fined the sum of ffive and twenty shillings for buying Rodds of unlawfull band, and for which he had given a Note under his hand this Court thought fitt to take onely 15^{s} which he willingly paid.

JANUARY 19TH 1690/1.

This day the Court of Assistants took under Consideration the Case of Mr Warden Allett who had formerly been fined the sum of 50^{s} for buying Rodds of unlawful band. And it being put to the vote whether any part of the same fine should be returned to him or not. It was voted in the Negative and accordingly the same fine is Ordered to be brought in to the poors' box the same to be disposed of as the Court shall from time to time think fit.

Paid into the Chamber of London the
Cities proportion for Rodds seized at 3 Cranes
Sep. 18th 1690 . . . . . 01 00 00

APRIL 6TH 1691.

It is ordered by this Court that William Loward shall be fined & is hereby fined vj^{s} : viij^{d} for inticeing away a Journeyman from Adrian Pearson.†

APRIL 11TH 1692.

This day Warden Evans, Mr ffielder and Mr Pollett were severally fined 6^{s} 8^{d} a piece for employing Journeymen without leave pursuant to the Orders.

---

* The beadle.

† Upper Warden 1673–75, and 1681–85.

APRIL 22ND 1700.

To Mr. Garder for Arresting Mr. Purnel Mr. Spinage & Mr. Parson 00 17 06

OCTOBER 11TH 1703.

Mr. Benjamin Evans & Mr. James Hering were fined 13^{s} 4^{d} each for gathering money upon y^{e} search last Bartholomew Day without y^{e} company & consent of y^{e} p̄snt Wardens.

JULY 10TH 1704.

The Wardens being Informed That Samuel Young & Robert Gray following y^{e} Trade of Basket-makers being not Quallifyed for the same This Court hath ordered & desired y^{e} Wardens to use such methods therein as they shall think fitt and to Indempnify them therein & the cost thereof.

OCTOBER 12TH 1724.

To my Lord Mayors Attorney To the Officers for sum̃onss & at severall meetings on the occation of sumoning members before his Lords^{pp} . . £2. 5. 7½

APRIL 12TH 1742.

Paid at Guildhall for Summonss from the Court of Conscience * . . . . 0 8^{s} 4^{d}

After the middle of the 18th century the Company's powers of trade supervision gradually declined, though some efforts seem to have been made to revive them. By resolution of the Court held the 24th September, 1777, it was ordered :—

That the Rules and Orders contained in the Book of Orders for the Company and Craft of Basket Makers,

* First established by Act of Common Council in 1518, also styled "The Court of Requests," *vide* p. 121.

London, made Anno Domini 1569 be put in full force as far as it is possible against such persons as are free of this Company or who work in the same Crafte and will not conform to the orders therein contained.

The following extract from the Company's books show that further attempts to control the trade were made some years later :—

At a Court of Assistants of the Company of Basket Makers held at the Crown, Stationers Court, Ludgate Street, 30th April 1810, for the purpose of taking into consideration the circumstance of many Persons not free of this Company exercising the Trade of Basket Makers :—

Resolved unanimously that the following advertizement be inserted three times in the Day Times and Morning Advertiser public papers viz :—

Whereas at a Court of Assistants of the Basket Makers' Company held the 30th day of April 1810 it has been represented to this Court that a number of Persons now carry on the Trade of Basket Makers within the City of London and Suburbs and two miles thereof to the great detriment and injury of Persons duly apprenticed to the said Craft. This is therefore to give Notice that any Person or Persons who may be found offending therein will be prosecuted according to Law without further Notice. And all Persons desirous of being admitted to the Freedom of the said Company are hereby informed that they may apply for that purpose to Mr. Lilley, Solicitor, Peckham, Clerk to the said Company.

As late as the year 1828, yet another attempt seems to have been made to revive the old powers of the Company, for at a Court of Assistants held at the Guildhall on February the 8th of that year, it was resolved :—

That the Wardens be requested to cause such steps to be taken to compel all Foreigners, Strangers, Aliens and others who carry on the business of Basket Makers within this City with the permission of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen or otherwise to pay quarterage to this Company agreeable to the Rules of the same.

At a Court held at the same place on the 8th May, 1828, the Chairman reported:—

That he had applied to the Lord Mayor for a Summons against Bartlett a Basket Maker for not taking up his Freedom or paying Quarterage, who had referred him to the Chamberlain's Office where he had also applied and that it was there considered that the amount due from Bartlett was recoverable in the Court of Requests. Resolved that the Wardens be requested to summon Mr. George and Joseph Bartlett to the Court of Requests before the next Meeting.

At the next meeting of the Court held on the 10th July, 1828, the Chairman stated :—

That he had applied to the Court of Requests for a summons against the Defaulters in payment of the Quarterage and that the Clerk advised him not to proceed there. Resolved that the Wardens be respectfully solicited to wait upon the Chamberlain with the Clerk to solicit his assistance in obtaining the Quarterage due for non-performance.

An extract from the minutes of the next Court held the 14th August, 1828, marks the final stage in the effort to control the trade. The Chairman reported on that occasion that the Wardens had attended the Chamberlain and had been informed that the Court of Requests was the proper place in which to recover quarterage;

but the matter was not proceeded with,—probably because it was recognised that further action would be futile.

In the Second Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the state of the Municipal Corporations in England and Wales in 1837, it was stated that "The last instance of the Company exercising their control over the trade was in 1789 or 1799, when a poor Frenchman who sold baskets was ejected from the City." The Company's books contain no reference to this incident, and it would be interesting to know from what source the Commissioners obtained the information.

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMPANY'S BOOKS.

The books saved from the Great Fire are ;—

(1) A Transcript of the Ordinances, etc., written in 1618.

(2) A Roll of Apprentices, commencing 1st June, 1639.

(3) A Quarter Book, commencing 8th September, 1661.

The Transcript, the oldest book preserved, is a small volume $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 10\frac{1}{2}''$, bound in parchment, and contains seventy-one vellum leaves beautifully engrossed. The quaintly worded petition of the Basket-makers, and the Ordinances previously set forth at length,* were copied from this book. The title page is as follows :—

1618. Bolles Maior.

This transcript was written in the yeare of our Lorde Jesus Christ 1618 and in the xvjth yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne L^{d} James Kinge of England & is in the tyme of the Wardenshipp of Robert Mounte and Richard Cobham, then Wardens.

Thomas Leeche, Clericus Scripsit.

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* *Vide* p. 31, *et seq.*

The first page contains the oath * of the freemen of the craft, and the following transcripts appear on succeeding pages in the order given :—

(1) An Acte concerninge Strangers Artificers for takinge of Apprentices Journeymen and covenaunt servante Made Anno 14° & 15° Henrici Octavi.

(2) An Acte concerninge Artificers and Straungers Anno vicesimo primo Henrici Octavi.

(3) The decree made in Sterr Chamber for Artificers Straungers by the Kinge moste Honorable Counsaile the xxth day of ffebruarie in the xxth yeare of the raigne of our Soveraigne Lord Kinge Henrie the viijth.

(4) An Act concerning exacions levied on Prentises Anno xxij° Henrici Octavi.

(5) An Acte concerning Straungers.

(6) The Booke of Orders for the Companie of Basketmakers London Año 1569 (followed by the further Orders granted in 1585 & 1610).

(7) Memorandum (a copy of the Orders of Common Council 12th October 3 Edward IV. (1463) and 22nd Oct. 30 Henry VIII. (1538)).

The copy of the Order of Common Council, of 1463, concludes with these words: "Vera copia teste, W. Marks," and that of 1538 with the words: "Vera Copia, Wat: Markes." In the latter several words have been erased.

The following is a copy of the first entry in the Roll of Apprentices :—

PRIMO DIE JUNII 1639.

John Hawkins sonne of John Hawkins of Blackwall in the County of Midd. Shippwright doth put himself

* *Vide* p. 137.

apprntice to Henry Adrianson Cittizen and Basket-maker of London for vij yeares Commencing from the ffeast day of The Nativitie of S. John Baptist next ensuing.

This book contains a list of the apprentices from the above date to October, 1824, but there is unfortunately a gap from 30th September, 1657, to 14th August, 1673, some twenty-eight pages having been left blank, and from 13th June, 1799, to 9th May, 1811, no indentures are recorded.

The Quarter Book beginning on the 8th September, 1661, contains entries of the elections of wardens and assistants, the admissions to the freedom, the bindings of apprentices, the wardens' accounts, and occasional orders of the Court. The books and records from that date to the present time have been preserved.

The following note, written by the Clerk in 1666 on the fly-leaf of the first Roll of Freemen, refers to the loss of the books and other effects in the Great Fire :—

The quarter books for the Company of Basket Makers London which had continued for above three score years were amongst other books and writings consumed by the dreadful and lamentable fire which began on the second of September 1666 and lasted four days whereby most of the late flourishing City of London within the Walls and most parts westward without the walls were destroied and laid wast, amongst which the stately furniture of Guildhall was consumed, in one room of which building the Company of Basketmakers had for many years before the said fire kept their publique meetings and holden their Courts, and their Chest with

Carpets, Cushions, Silver spoons, bookes, writings and other things standing in the same room at the time of the said fire was burnt, to the loss and detremount of the said Brotherhood, and with great pains and scrutiny the names of the members therof hereafter written were reduced to the order and method following by me.*

January 10th 1666.† Chris. Pym Clerk.

It is to the credit of Christopher Pym, that he made such worthy efforts on behalf of the Company during a trying period in the history of the City.

In view of the preceding statement made by the Clerk of 1666, the two following entries in the Wardens' Accounts, dated the 5th May, 1667, appear a little perplexing:—

Paid the Clarke for searching the old book for 60 years and writing the new quarter booke	00 10 00
Paid for carrying and preserving the Company's bookes at the tyme of the fire . .	00 02 00

The Roll of Apprentices and the Quarter Book commencing 1st June, 1639, and 8th September, 1661, respectively, were in use at the time of the Great Fire, and these, together with the Transcript of the Ordinances, were evidently

---

* A complete list of the Freemen followed.

† Previous to September, 1752, the legal year commenced on the 25th March, whilst the historical year began on the 1st of January, hence the apparent disagreement in the dates. A date between 1st January and 25th March usually written thus :—Jan. 10th 1666/7.

not at the Guildhall when the conflagration took place.

In the same Accounts is an entry referring to a mortgage:—

Paid Mr. Heath for a copy of the Mortgage, the original and other leases being burnt by the fire and for his attendance . . . 01 00 00

The subjoined entries in the books seem to point to the fact that the Company possessed some property in the seventeenth century:—

JULY 31ST 1671.

Spent with Heath at receiveing the rent . 00 00 10

OCTOBER 9TH 1671.

Received for rent 02 15 00

NOVEMBER 22ND 1671.

Lewis his rent 00 07 06

JANUARY 22ND 1671.

Of Mr Smith for rent due at Xpmas . . 02 15 00
Of Mr Heath in parte for the houses in East Smithfeild 05 00 00

JANUARY 26TH 1671.

Mr Smith's Taxes and Lewis rent . . . 00 09 06

OCTOBER 7TH 1672.

Of Mr Heath in full for the purchase . . 40 00 00

JULY 29TH, 1673.

Paid the Clarke for goeing to Eastsmithfeild and when the agreem^{t} was made with Mr Heath and perusing the writings . . 00 10 00

There are a few entries in the Wardens' Accounts of money lent and interest received for the same; these are recorded as follows:—

JANUARY 10TH 1661.

Received of Mr Ayleffe the interest of ffifety pounds for six moneths due the 26th of December last 01 10 00

JULY 7TH 1662.

Received then of Mr Ayleffe which was oweing to this Company upon mortgage l[l] and 6 moneths interest for the same due the xxvj[th] of June last in all 51 10 00

BARTHOLOMEW DAY 1662.

Paid September 19th to a Scrivener for drawing writeings upon putting out mony belonging to the Company 00 04 00

NOVEMBER 2ND 1662.

Spent at a meeting to put out parte of the Company's money 00 01 02

NOVEMBER 16TH 1662.

Lent then to [ ] * the some of l[l] at vi[l] p Cent 50 00 00

APRIL 27TH 1663.

Lent April xxviij[th] 1663 to Phillip Allatt upon bond. 05 00 00

JULY 6TH 1663.

Received of Mr Warening 6 moneths interest for l[l]. 01 10 00

MAY 6TH 1664.

Lent to John Selwood bye order . . . 05 00 00

JUNE — 1664.

Received May the iij[d] of Phillip Allatt the some of ffive pounds and twelve moneths interest for the same 05 06 00

* Blank in the original.

July 5th 1665.

Of Mr Walwin the interest of l[l] for two yeares due the xxvij[th] of May last . . . 06 00 00

July 9th 1666.

Received of John Selwood the interest of v[l] for 12 moneths due the vi[th] of May last . 00 06 00

July 15th 1667.

Of John Selwood the interest of v[l] for 12 moneths due the 6th of May last . . 00 06 00

October 5th 1668.

Received of Mr Selwood in ꝑte of his debt . 00 10 00

October 12th 1668.

Mr Walwin the interest of 50[l] for 12 moneths due in May last 68 . . . . . 03 00 00

July — 1681.

Lent Mr Eaylby at interest 56 00 00

January — 1682.

Received of Mr Ealby that was oweing by him fifety pounds and two years interest for the same due the xiiij January 1682 . 56 00 00

In the first Quarter Book preserved, an interesting entry occurs, dated the 7th October, 1663. This is an inventory of the various effects handed over by the retiring Wardens, namely:—

Received of Mr Richard Earl and Mr Nicholas Perrey by Mr William Kitchen and Mr Ralph Allestry now Wardens. Three bookes of orders, One booke of Remembrance, One quarter booke, Two bookes of receipts and payments, One banner, Three leaden weights, One pewter standish, One obligacon from Robinson to the Company, One Dieper table Cloth ten Cushions, two

Carpetts, One table of orders, one houre glasse, one hammer, One little leatherne box with three lockes and keyes, In ready money Sixteene pounds, one shilling and foure pence. Seaventeene silver spoons, and a box for the poore given by Mr. Oliffe.

The following entries record the transfer of money, etc., to the new Wardens on the occasion of the old Wardens retiring from office :—

Memorandum that Mr Mathew Keene Warden of the company of Basketmakers of London did on the first day of May 1672 then deliver unto Mr Antyony Wats basketmaker the sum of fivfty seaven pounds seaventene shillings and eieght pence with one silver spoone and a small trunke which I acknowledge to have received the day above sayed in trust and for the use of the company of basketmakers with a bond from Mr Heath scrivfner in East Smithfield of forty pounds to be payed the 27th day of September next Insuinge which some fivfty and seaven pounds seaventene shillings and eiaget pence with the bond of forty pounds the trunke and one silver spoone I doe heare promise to pay and deliver unto Mr Warden Johnson and to Mr Robert Harding when it shall be demanded by them for the use of the company whereunto I have set my hand the day and yeare above writin.

The marke of Anthony W Watts.

Abrah. Johnson, witnes.

Samuel Keene
Robert Harding } wittnes.

October vijth 1672.

This day Mr Watts is discharged of the trust above mentioned ffor that he hath delivered the mony trunke and things above mentioned unto Mr Keene & Mr Johnson Wardens of the Company of Basketmakers.

Witnes

Chris. Pym, Clerke.

SEPTEMBER 12TH 1673.

Received of Mathew Keene and Abraham Johnson late Wardens by Adrian Peirson and Clement Peirson now Wardens in money 45 19 08

& two bonds for 50[l] lent to David Hillar & John Plumridge in all 95[l] : 19[s] : 08[d] being the exceeds of their Accompt Which Accompt was allowed off the day and yeare abovesaid by we whose names are subscribed.

(not signed).

Extracts from the Company's books referring to the attempts to obtain a charter, the grant of the livery, the control of the trade, and other special matters, have been set forth elsewhere in these pages; beyond these, the books contain few entries other than bindings of apprentices, admissions to the freedom, elections of the wardens and assistants, and the wardens' accounts. A few items gathered chiefly from the latter source are here given :—

OCTOBER 24TH 1661.

Paid for a dinner then 01 15 06

JANUARY 24TH 1661.

Spent March 4th when a precept came about Corne 00 02 06

Paid for meal which was served into Cheap Ward according to a p[r]cept * . . 00 14 00

JULY 7TH 1662.

Spent August xvi[th] at a meeting touching a precept 00 01 08

* *Vide* p. 75.

JULY 3RD 1671.

Received for one and twenty silver spoones that were sold 07 09 00

AUGUST 24TH 1671.

Spent at Breakfast then 00 05 06

JULY 7TH 1672.

Paid for Printing the Act of Q Elizabeth . 00 06 00

AUGUST 26TH 1672.

Paid for a Truncke and two Cedar Balls . 01 12 06
ffor carrying the Truncke to Guildhall . . 00 01 00
Paid for the Coate of Armes . . . 01 05 00
Paid for the Table of Orders and fframe and Articles of Q Eliz: 00 16 00

27TH JULY 1675.

Paid for an Hower Glasse . . . . ij^{s} vj^{d}

7TH JUNE 1677.

Spent attending the Court of Aldreñ . . ij^{s} ij^{d}
Spent on Lord Majors day . . . . xi.

MAY 8TH 1683.

Paid for drawing severall Orders to be allowed by the Court of Aldreñ 01 00 00

JANUARY 19TH 1684.

Paid for a Gowne 00 01 00

OCTOBER 12TH 1685.

Paid the Clarke his Salary this Quarter . . 00 05 00
Paid him for goeing in search . . . 00 02 06
Paid him for writing over the Quarter Booke 00 05 00
Paid him for drawing and entering the last Wardens Accompts 00 10 00
Paid him for a coppy of the names of o^{r} Members, and their Quarteridge . . 00 05 00

JULY 12TH 1686.

This day James Herring was admitted of the Assistants and paid	02	00	0
Paid for swearing the Wardens . . .	00	04	0
Paid for mending the Trunke . . .	00	01	6
Paid for a copy of the Wardens Oath . .	00	02	0

APRILL 28TH 1690.

Paid the Hall rent *	00	04	00

OCTOBER 13TH 1690.

Expent this day at ye White Lyon & Mr Halls at Queens Hith	00	17	06

APRIL 15TH 1695

Expended in paying the Reckonning at the White Lyon	00	09	00

APRIL 9TH 1704.

George Bolt by reason of his purchase of his ffreedom of the Citty of London was at his request made free of this Company and paid	1.	0.	0.

JULY 12TH 1708.

Expent at a meeting of the Company to give an accompt of y^e^ abode of the members of y^e^ Company persuant to the Lord Mayor's Precept	0.	8.	0.

JANUARY 14TH 1711.

To the Clerk for swearing y^e^ Wardens, 5^s^ ffor Bartholomew day 5^s^ ffor y^e^ Wardens Oaths 5^s^ ffor an Ingraved Plate for y^e^ Box 5^s^ ffor y^e^ Wardens accompts & Quarter Book 1^t^, in all	2.	0.	0.

JULY 27TH 1713.

Ordered that Jeremiah Howells Quarteridge be forgiven him to this day upon the accompt of his service to her Majesty in her Army.

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* *i.e.* The Guildhall.

AUGUST 28TH 1718.

It is this day Ordered and agreed That a Coate be provided and made for Thomas Hayes the Beadle of this Company, fitt and convenient for him at the charge of the Publick Stock of this Company And at the discrecon of the Wardens of the same Company as to the ffashion and Charge thereof.

OCTOBER 12 1719.

	£. s. d.
Paid for a Staff & Silver head for y^e^ Companys use	1. 16. 0.

APRIL 11TH 1720.

Of severall persons for Quartridge since last Quarter Day	7. 13. 4.

JANUARY 8TH 1721.

Paid for 500 Printed Oaths and 2,000 summonses and paper	1. 15. 0.

JANUARY 19TH 1730.

This Day Mr Wm Slade junr was made free of this Company by Patrimony. He paid the usual ffees & 1^s^ to the Poors Box.

JULY 14TH 1735.

Of Mr Gallington for S^r^ W^m^ Ogborns * quarteridge (rece^d^ by him of S^r^ W^ms^ Executor) .	0. 16. 0.

MAY 15TH 1736.

At this Court Thos. Hamnett of Water Lane in Blackfryars Cheesmonger was made free by Redemption & paid 1^lb.^

APRIL 20TH 1742.

Paid for the Beadles Gown	2. 18. 0.
Paid for the Silver Baskett	2. 0. 0.
Paid for the Beadles Hatt	0. 6. 0.

* Prime Warden of the Company 1713–15; was knighted some few years later and elected Sheriff of the City of London in 1726. He was also a member of the Carpenters' Company, and served the office of Master of that Guild.

FEBRUARY 27TH 1745.

At this Court Mrs. Ann Shergold widow of Mr Mark Shergold late of the Parish of St. Botolph Billingsgate was made free of this Company & paid 1 0 0

The Company's accounts record monetary assistance given to the poor, and payments for the purpose of burials. Subjoined are a few extracts gathered at random :—

APRIL 27TH 1663.

Given old Trusse 00 02 06
Given goody Douglasse 00 00 04

JULY 6TH 1663.

Given old Trusse then 00 03 00

JULY 21ST 1673.

Given to old Wilmot 00 05 00

OCTOBER 6TH 1673.

Given James Garrett and John Willmore . ix^{s}

JANUARY 19TH 1673.

Given John Rymes by the Companies order . x^{s}

APRIL 6TH 1674.

Given Widow Rymer by order . . . v^{s}
Given to Widow Garrett then . . . v^{s}

JULY 17TH 1677.

Given to bury William Cooper . . . iiij^{s}

JULY 28TH 1679.

Given John Wilmore at severall times these two yeares 00 16 00
Given Widow Garrett 00 08 00

JULY 30TH 1681.

Paid to John Wilmore and to other poore persons for these Two yeares . . . 03 02 00

OCTOBER 17TH 1681.

Given to severall poore people . . . 00 07 06

JULY 16TH 1683.

Given the poore 00 05 00

OCTOBER 12TH 1685.

Given the Poor out of the Stocke . . . 00 07 00

SEPTEMBER 3RD 1689.

Given to severall poor people at severall times 00 07 00

OCTOBER 14TH 1689.

Given a poor man 00 02 00

APRIL 28TH 1690.

Given Moses Bayley a poor man . . . 00 05 00

OCTOBER 13TH 1690.

Given Mr. Harper's Children 00 05 00

FEBRUARY 2ND 1691.

Paid for a Coffin for Cornelius Adrian . . 00 05 00

Given John Long in his Sicknesse and towards the burying of him by order . . . 00 16 00

JULY 10TH 1693.

Given Mr. Harper's son that is blind . . 00 05 00

JULY 29TH 1693.

Paid towards the burying of John Geary . 00 10 00

OCTOBER 16TH 1693.

Given old Rymes 00 03 06

APRIL 15TH 1695.

Expended at the buriall of old Rymes . . 00 06 06

JULY 7TH 1718.

Paid since last Quarter in y^{e} Companys business & for Mr. Brainers ffunerall . . . 3 4. 10

July 11th 1720.

Ordered That Twenty shillings be paid and given to Mr. Hayes the Beadle for particular business done to this day & in regard to his age.

October 10th 1720.

Ordered That Twenty shillings be given to Thomas Hayes the Beadle to buy him necessaryes.

July 10th 1721.

Ordered That Thomas Hayes have Twenty shillings given him on Accompt of his Age and Poverty.

The Oath taken by the Freemen of the Company as recorded in the Transcript of Acts, Orders, and Regulations, written in 1618 by Thomas Leeche, the Clerk of that time, is here set forth :—

The Oath of every Freeman of this Craft.

Ye shall swear to bee true and faithfull to our Soveraigne Lord the Kinge of England now being and to his heires and Successors Kinges and Queenes of England after him, To the Companie and Craft of Basketmakers wherein you are informed either by apprenticehoode or otherwise. The secrets of y^{e} same Crafte yee shall well and faithfullie keepe, and not teache them to any man but to such as be free of the same Science. Also ye shalbe obedient unto almanner of Sumons whensoever yee shalbe warned by the Officer or Beadle. And to paye all manner of Duties as it becometh a Brother and a Freeman to doe. If yee knowe any evill or hurte to y^{e} same Crafte or that shoulde be hurtfull to y^{e} Wardens to showe it, and let it to your power, So help you God.

At a Meeting of the Court held at The Two Brewers, London Wall, on the 27th September 1825, it was resolved :—

That in the Oath in future to be taken by every person on his admission to the Freedom of this Company the words :—

> Also ye shall be obedient to all manner of Summonses whensoever ye shall be warned by the Officer or Beadle

be left out.

It was customary, until about the end of the eighteenth century, for the Clerk to be sworn on taking office. The form of the Oath was as follows :—

> You swear that you will well and truly do and execute all such things as shall appertain and belong to your Office of Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers of this City of London according to the Laws and Customs thereof. So help you God.

CONNECTION WITH THE IRISH SOCIETY.

In the year 1609, James I. issued a state paper proclaiming the advantage to be obtained by the colonisation of certain escheated lands in the province of Ulster, in the north of Ireland. The public, nevertheless, did not take much interest in the scheme, and the King applied to the Corporation of the City of London to develop the colony. The Corporation obtained the necessary funds by a precept calling on the respective Companies to obtain their quota from the members—the usual method prevailing at that time. Licence to hold lands in mortmain was granted to the City Companies in 1615, and three years later the Irish Society (originally a Committee of the Corporation of the City of London) created manors and conveyed them to the City Companies. An assessment of £40,000 having been made upon them towards the development of the colony in Ulster, certain lands and possessions were divided into twelve portions and settled by lot amongst the great Companies. The minor Companies were joined to those of the great Companies who had not advanced one-twelfth of the whole sum,

the Basket-makers' Company being entitled by this procedure to a small sub-share in the Fishmongers' manor in Ulster. The respective interests in proportion to the assessments were as follows:—

Fishmongers' Company . .	2260
Leathersellers' Company . .	950
Plasterers' Company . .	40
Glaziers' Company . . .	32
Basket-makers' Company . .	32
Musicians' Company . .	20
	£3,334

The total, it will be seen, is one-twelfth of the whole amount contributed.

It is not known how the Fishmongers' Company came to acquire the small share allotted to the Basket-makers' Company, though it has been suggested that the latter did not claim possession when the division took place in 1618.

On the 16th July, 1832, a Bill was filed in Chancery by the Skinners' Company against the Irish Society, the Associated Companies and the Corporation of London, with the object of obtaining a declaration that the Irish Society were Trustees for the Companies in respect of rents and profits of ferries, fisheries and townlands in Ulster; these being the surplus properties which had not been divided among the Companies. The decision of the Court of Chancery (afterwards upheld by the House of

Lords) was that the powers granted to the Irish Society and the trusts reposed in them, were of a public nature independent of the private benefit of the City Companies.

The Basket-makers' Company was not a party to these legal proceedings, since it had repudiated any claim to this surplus under the hands and seals of the Wardens and Members of the Court of Assistants.

It may be interesting to record the fact that basket-making was included in the seventeen different trades which the Irish Society recommended should be introduced into Ulster.

INTEREST IN THE CRAFT.

The Company endeavours to further the interests of the trade so far as its resources permit, chiefly by providing funds for the prizes awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute in the basket-making section.

The following extracts from the Institute's Programme (Department of Technology) for the Session 1910–11 are given to show the scope of the basket-making syllabus :—

BASKET-WORK.

The Examination will be Written and Practical, and will be so arranged as to test the Candidate's skill in Basket-work in its various forms and applications, as well as his knowledge of the various materials commonly employed.

The examination will include—(1) Practical work ; (2) Written answers to questions ; (3) Specimen work done by the Candidate during the session preceding the examination.

In order to obtain a Certificate in either grade, Candidates will be required to pass in each of the parts 1, 2, and 3.

Ordinary Grade.

1. *The Written Examination* will include questions on the following subjects :—

(1) Osiers : different kinds and sizes, their qualities and uses.

The cultivation of osiers. Cutting, sorting, peeling, and buffing. Preparation for use. Staining, varnishing.

(2) Cane, whole and pithed: different kinds and sizes; qualities and uses. Preparation for use. Staining, varnishing.

(3) Tools and appliances: their uses.

(4) Round or oval slath. Upsetting, slewing, randing, fitching, pairing. Wales—three, four, five, or six stroke. Borders—plain three, four, five, or six stroke. Footing. End, or cross handles. Hasps and nooses. Ties and bands. Stakes, scalloms, bye-stakes, leagues, liners.

(5) The construction of ordinary round and oval baskets in osier and cane pith.

2. *Practical Examination.*—Each Candidate will be required, in the presence of the Superintendent, to make some specimen of round or oval work in osier or cane pith, as may be specified at the time of the examination.

Candidates will be required to bring with them the usual tools and appliances.

3. *Specimen Work.*—Each Candidate will be required, in the nine months preceding the examination, to make and complete in all particulars, one specimen of round, and one specimen of oval work.

The design, construction, and execution of the specimen work will be considered, also any originality of workmanship that is useful or practical.

HONOURS GRADE.

1. *The Written Examination* will include questions on the following subjects:—

(1) Process of making Skeins—cleaving, shaving, uprighting. Material other than osier used in fancy work. Staining, varnishing.

(2) Construction of upright round linen, or similar basket; bird-cage, round or square; chicken crate; bottle and carboy casing.

(3) Square basket: preparing bottom, staking and upsetting, for any given size, both with and without corner sticks. The corner border.

(4) Borders: plain, plaited or braided, rope or cable scallop, tracking.

(5) The construction of a fitched garden chair, fancy chair, lounge chair, afternoon tea stand with two tiers, afternoon tea table with two or three trays.

(6) The construction of picnic, luncheon and tea baskets. Partition baskets, covered and open; quart and pint wine baskets; champagne baskets, sample baskets, acid baskets, baskets for glasses, etc.

(7) Pony chaise bodies; motor car bodies.

(8) Dress baskets; travelling hampers; pigeon baskets.

(9) Letter and waste paper baskets.

2. *Practical Examination.*—Each Candidate will be required, in the presence of the Superintendent, to make any ordinary specimen of Basket-work that may be specified at the time of the examination.

3. *Specimen Work.*—Each Candidate will be required, in the nine months preceding the examination, to make and complete in all particulars a specimen of advanced basket-work, in the construction of which other materials in addition to osiers may be used, *e.g.* hazel, straw plait, plaited rush, cane, plain or enamelled, etc. The exercise should be so selected as to show the Candidate's ability in design and construction, and the application of osier weaving to purposes beyond the ordinary forms of basket-work—travelling trunks, chairs, tables, stands and the like.

Originality of design or workmanship will be especially considered.

At the East London Trades, Arts and Industries Exhibition, held at the People's Palace in 1896, the Basket-making Section of the Exhibition was under the auspices of the Com pany, and thus divided:—

I. Exhibits of Manufacturing and Trading Firms.

II. Work of Individual Craftsmen.

III. Work of Individual Students and Apprentices.

In order to encourage the craft of English Basket-making, and as an inducement to individual Basket-makers (whether workmen or apprentices) to compete, the Court of the Company decided to give Diplomas of Merit to the Exhibitors of the best specimens in Section I., and offered money prizes in Sections II. and III. For that purpose they adopted the following classification in each division: Class I. Whole Rod Work. Class II. Skein Work. Class III. Fancy Work (including Straw, Rush, Esparto, String, Cane, etc.).

The factors determining the bestowal of the prizes were: For each 1st Prize, "originality of design and excellence of workmanship;" for each 2nd Prize, "excellence of workmanship;" and for each 3rd Prize, "careful and good workmanship." Numerous entries were received, thus showing the considerable interest evoked by the competition.

In past years the Company has shown occasional interest in the subject of osier-planting in England and in the encouragement of village classes in Basket-work; lack of funds has, however, prevented that intimate connection with the trade which it is so desirable to maintain.

From 1846 to 1873 the Company was in

danger of extinction, but the energy of a small number of active members of the Court was instrumental in reviving it from a semi-moribund condition. The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield wrote concerning this effort: "This is greatly to the credit of the few energetic members that have rescued and restored to active life this ancient corporation."

In referring to this matter, it should be placed on record that the Company is greatly indebted to the White family, whose connection with the Guild dates back to the early part of the eighteenth century. The last member of this old family of Basket-makers who took an active interest in the Company's welfare was Mr. James George White, J.P., C.C., Deputy Alderman of Walbrook. He served the Office of Prime Warden in 1882–83, and for several years filled the position of Honorary Clerk. His decease occurred in 1906, and a Tablet to his memory has been placed in St. Swithin's Church by his many friends.

Though never wealthy, the Worshipful Company of Basket-makers is an old institution with worthy traditions and a long record of earnest endeavour to benefit an ancient British industry. During the last thirty-five years the position of the Company has steadily improved, while its growing influence and increasing membership give encouragement to the hope that renewed efforts in the interest of the trade will be made.

APPENDIX A.

DESCRIPTION OF BASKET-MAKING IN 1747.

From "A General Description of all Trades," Printed by T. Waller.

Though this seems to be an inferior hidden Sort of a Handicraft Business, there is a good deal of Variety in it; and is not without its Niceties, too, as evidently appears by the considerable Figure their Wares make in the Turners' Shops, (and the many Uses they are applied to) who are the principal Dealers in them, after the Makers. Most, if not all, Baskets are made of Willow Twigs, Osiers, or Rods, either green with the Peel on, or Stript, which make them appear white; they are also split, shaved, and dyed for the finer Works. The working them green is the more considerable Branch, especially for the Gardeners' Use; for many Masters in this way not only follow the Trade of Basket-making, and employ many Hands, but rent several Waters for the sake of the Osier Plantations, which often produce not only sufficient for themselves, but a great many to spare.

This part of the Work requires not much else besides Strength and Application, a Journeyman in which can earn from 10 to 20^{s} a Week. The White Work does not require so much Strength, but more Invention and Nicety, at which many Women are employed in making the smaller Wares.

They have 5 or 10$^{£}$ with an Apprentice and their Hours of working are from six to nine.

About 100$^{£}$ will set a Master up in a pretty Manner; but some of them employ more.

They are a Company by prescription only; but were considerable enough in the Year 1463 in the Reign of King Edward IV., to have a certain Place allotted them for their keeping Shops, then called the Manor of Blanch-Appleton, situated at the North-East End of Mark-lane, in Fenchurch Street.

They have neither Livery * nor Hall; but meet to do their Business where and when their Warden appoints, commonly once a Quarter, when they have a Feast.

There is no Record in the College of any Arms granted to them.

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* The Livery was granted seventy-eight years later.

APPENDIX B.

LIST OF THE WARDENS.

* Clement Holmes
* Adrian Adrianson
* William Addersburie
* William Weatlie
* Thomas Oliffe
* John Clarke

	Upper Warden.	*Under Warden.*
1610	Robert Brackin . .	Robert Mounte
1618	Robert Mounte . .	Richard Cobham
1623	Richard Bingham	

With the exception of the above, the names of the Wardens prior to 1661 are not known, the records having been lost.

1661–63	Richard Earl . .	Nicholas Perry
1663–65	William Kitchen .	Ralph Allestry
1665–67	Edmund Peirson .	Matthew Keene
1667–69	Anthony Watts .	Adrian Peirson
1669–71	Robert Harding .	Thomas Hall
1671–73	Matthew Keene .	Abraham Johnson
1673–75	Adrian Peirson .	Clement Peirson
1675–77	Thomas Hall . .	Richard Reading
1677–79	Robert Harding .	James Ward
1679–81	Anthony Watts .	James Dickenson
1681–85	Adrian Peirson .	Jacob Chandler
1685–86	Richard Reading .	William Fielder
1686–87	William Fielder .	Phillip Allett

* Years of office unobtainable. In the Petition of 1610 for further Ordinances they are referred to as having been *heretofore* Wardens.

	Upper Warden.	*Under Warden.*
1687–89	James Dickenson	Samuel Puller
1689–91	Phillip Allett	John Alcott
1691–93	John Alcott	Benjamin Evans
1693–95	Benjamin Evans	John Berrey
1695–97	John Johnson	Thomas Board
1697–99	John Berrey	John Dobbs
1699–01	John Dobbs	William Pollett
1701–03	James Herring	Isaac Puller
1703–05	William Pollett	Stephen Goldsmith
1705–07	Stephen Goldsmith	William Costen
1707–09	William Costen	John Cole
1709–11	John Cole	William Hancock
1711–13	William Hancock	William Ogborn
1713–15	William Ogborn *	Capt. John Kelson
1715–17	Capt. John Kelson	Francis Watts
1717–19	Francis Watts	William Board
1719–21	John Gallington	Thomas Bolter
1721–23	Benjamin Johnson	Fulkes Wenham
1723–25	Fulkes Wenham	Benjamin Payne
1725–27	Thomas Bolter	James Bull
1727–29	Benjamin Payne	Benjamin Bechenoe
1729–31	James Bull	Benjamin Bechenoe
1731–33	Benjamin Bechenoe	William Deal
1733–35	William Deal	Jethro Osborne Richard Cutter
1735–37	Richard Cutter	Peter Buck
1737–39	Peter Buck	Henry Wilson
1739–41	Henry Wilson	Timothy Berry John Fuller
1741–43	Henry Wilson	Peter Deane
1743–45	William Slade	William Howson
1745–47	William Howson	Nathaniel Jeynes
1747–49	Nathaniel Jeynes	Benjamin Bechenoe
1749–51	Benjamin Bechenoe	William Boulter
1751–53	William Boulter	William Handleby

* Elected Sheriff and knighted in 1726, *vide* p. 134, and note.

	Upper Warden.	*Under Warden.*
1753–55	William Handleby	John Clark
1755–57	John Clark	Henry Willson, Junr.
1757–59	Henry Wilson, Junr.	Robert Samuel
1759–61	Robert Samuel	William Spinnage
1761–63	William Spinnage	Edward White
1763–65	Edward White	John Radford
1765–67	John Radford	Benjamin Hamnett
1767–69	Benjamin Hamnett	Robert Kemshead
1769–71	Robert Kemshead	John Haveil
1771–73	John Haveil	William Conyers
1773–75	Richard Hollingsworth	Richard Allum
1775–77	Henry Wilson	John Spinnage
1777–79	Richard Hollingsworth	Benjamin Philips
1779–81	Benjamin Hamnett	Benjamin Philips
1781–83	Benjamin Hamnett	Thomas Allum
1783–85	Willm. White, Senr.	Thomas Allum
1785–1807	Thomas Allum	Robert Burch
1807–09	Benjamin Philips	William Hipper
1809–19	Edward White *	Richard Allum
1819–24	Richard Allum	Thomas Okey
1824–26	Thomas Okey	Henry Richard Millett
1826–29	George Tucker	John Harris
1829–31	William Mallard	Samuel Walden
1831–33	Thomas Okey	Edward White, Junr.
1833–41	Samuel Walden	Henry Richard Millett
1841–46	John Harris	Edward White

	Prime Warden.	*Junior Warden.*
1846–81	Edward White †	Edward White, Junr.
1881–82	Edward White, Junr.	James George White
1882–83	James George White	William Thomas Parmly Montgomery

* Son of Edward White, Upper Warden, 1763–65.

† Son of Edward White, Upper Warden, 1809–19.

	Prime Warden.	*Junior Warden.*
1883–84	Wm. Thos. Parmly Montgomery	Thomas John Robins
1884–85	Thomas John Robins	Alexander Millar
1885–86	Alexander Millar .	William Philip Nettleship
1886–87	William Philip Nettleship. . .	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.
1887–88	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P. . . .	Edward James Anning, C.C.
1888–89	Edward James Anning, C.C.	John George Dibble
1889–90	John George Dibble	Charles Kendall
1890–91	Charles Kendall .	Edward Adams Perrin
1891–92	Edwd. Adams Perrin	John Whale
1892–93	John Whale . .	William Parson Tapper
1893–94	William Parson Tapper	James Palmer Pike
1894–95	James Palmer Pike .	Ambrose Andrew Tapper
1895–96	Ambrose Andrew Tapper . .	William Herbert Harrison
1896–97	William Herbert Harrison	Thomas John Robins
1897–98	Thomas John Robins	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.
1898–99	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.	Edward Knott
1899–1900	Edward Knott. .	James George Unite
1900–01	James George Unite	Henry Edwin Sambrook
1901–02	Henry Edwin Sambrook . . .	Richard Thomas Sambrook
1902–03	Richard Thomas Sambrook	George Henry Finch
1903–04	George Henry Finch	John Whittle Harvey
1904–05	John Whittle Harvey	William Philip Goosey

	Prime Warden.	*Junior Warden.*
1905–06	William Philip Goosey	Frederick Dunn
1906–07	Frederick Dunn .	Frederick Henry Pullen
1907–08	Frederick Henry Pullen . . .	Alfred Double, C.C., J.P.
1908–09	Alfred Double, C.C., J.P.	Horace Robert Spence
1909–10	Horace Robert Spence	Palmer Bryant
1910–11	Palmer Bryant	Reuben Henry Frost

APPENDIX C.

LIST OF THE CLERKS.

	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.	
1618	——	Thomas Leeche
1666	——	Christopher Pym
1684	14th April	James Oliver
1694	17th Sept.	Needler Webb
1730	13th July	William Benson
1737	9th Jan.	Joshua Cox
1746	14th July	William Boulter
——	——	Thomas Allum *
1767	13th July	Richard Allum
1808	15th Sept.	Samuel Isaac Lilly
1829	7th Jan.	Thomas Theobalds †
1829	12th Feb.	Frederick Temple ‡
1838	19th Feb.	William Walker §
1873	24th Oct.	Edward White
1878	30th Oct.	Edward White, Jr.
1883	14th Nov.	James George White, C.C., J.P. ‖
1906	6th June	Edwin Whitley Smith
1907	13th Feb.	Henry Hodgkinson Bobart

* Mentioned as clerk in 1761, but his appointment is not recorded.

† Of the Chamberlain's Office, Guildhall.

‡ Keeper of the Guildhall.

§ Of the Chamberlain's Office, Guildhall.

‖ Deputy of the Ward of Walbrook.

APPENDIX D.

LIST OF APPRENTICES WHO PRESENTED SILVER SPOONS TO THE COMPANY.

Date.	Name.	Mark.
1661	William Scott	W.S.
,,	Philemon Cobham	P.C.
,,	Thomas Hayes	T.H.
,,	Isaac Mackerson	I.M.
,,	John Day	I.D.
,,	William Penry	W.P.
1662	John Long	I.L.
,,	Thomas Walter	T.W.
,,	John Wills	I.W.
,,	John Bannister	I.B.
,,	Stephen Heather	(no mark)
1663	James Boteler	I.B.
,,	Nathaniel Ward	(no mark)
,,	John Haynes	I.H.
,,	Richard Jones	(no mark)
,,	Joseph Williams	,,
1664	George Ball	G.B.
,,	Richard West	R.W.
,,	Richard fflagott	R.F.
,,	Adrian Hobbs	A.H.
,,	Daniel Wood	(no mark)
1665	Thomas Greene	T.G.
,,	John Rymer	I.R.
1667	John Sheppeard	I.S.
,,	Samuel Puller	(no mark)
,,	Abraham Wilson	A.W.
,,	Robert White	R.W.
1668	Robert Aldridge	(no mark)
,,	Rowland ffry	,,
,,	John Harris	,,
,,	John Tythe	,,
,,	Andrew Harding	,,
,,	Joseph ffellows	,,
,,	James Herring	,,
1669	John Birkham	,,
1670	Thomas Gregory	T.G.
,,	Abraham Arnold	A.A.
,,	Thomas Benwell	T.B.

APPENDIX E.

ARMS OF THE COMPANY.

No record of a grant to the Basket-makers has been found in the College of Arms, and it is not known when those adopted by the Company were first assumed. In "A Complete Body of Heraldry" compiled by Joseph Edmondson F.S.A. in 1780 they are thus described :—

"Arms. Az: three cross baskets in pale ar. between a prime and an iron on the dexter, and a cutting-knife and an outsticker on the sinister of the second."

"(N.B. The prime and cutting-knife are in chief, and the iron and outsticker in base; they are the tools made use of in the business.)"

"Crest. On a wreath a cradle, therein a child, rocked at the head by a girl and at the feet by a boy, both vested, all proper."

"Motto. Let us love one another."

Edmondson adds: "This account of the Basket Makers Arms &c. I received from the Clerk of the Company with a print of the same, which is the ornament to their summonses, &c."

The Arms of the Company are to be seen in the Guildhall Council Chamber, on one of the stained glass screens which divide the Chamber from the corridor; they are also painted in their proper colours on the walls of the lobby leading from the Great Hall to the Council Chamber.

OLD ARMS OF THE BASKET MAKERS' COMPANY.

A

B

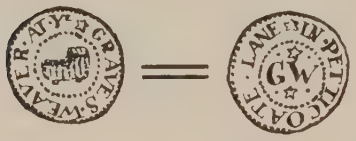
C

D

A. Reproduced from the form of Oath printed in 1721.
B. Reproduced from the Book of Ordinances printed in 1827.
C. Reproduced from "Maitland's History of London" (1772), vol. i., p. 1242.
D. Reproduced from "Seal's Map of Middlesex," *circa* 1750.

APPENDIX F.

BASKET MAKER'S TOKEN.



FACSIMILE OF GRAVES WEAVER'S TOKEN (1648-1671).

(*From the Beaufoy Collection in the Guildhall Museum.*)

Graves Weaver at ye — Wicker Cradle (in the field). *Rev.* in Petticoate Lane. (In the field) G.W. (Weaver was a Basket Maker, the cradle being the crest of the Basket Makers' Company.) *

* J. H. Burn's Descriptive Catalogue of London Traders' Tokens, 1855.

APPENDIX G.

RATES OF MERCHANDISE OR SUBSIDY OF TONNAGE.

Act of Tonnage & Poundage 12 Chas. II.

Rates inward.

Basket rods, the bundle	vj^{s} viij^{d}
Baskets, weat hand baskets or sports the dozen	iij^{s} iv^{d}

APPENDIX H.

LIST OF TAVERNS AND COFFEE HOUSES WHERE THE BASKET MAKERS HELD THEIR COURTS FROM 1667 TO 1826.

The Guildhall Coffee House.
The King's Head, Ivy Lane.
The Woolpack, Hart Street.
North's Coffee House, King Street.
The Plough Tavern, Blackwall.
The White Hart Inn, Kingsland Road.
The Temple Coffee House, Temple Bar.
The Fryar, Playhouse Yard.
The Horns, Thames Street.
The Bell, Basinghall Street.
The Blue Ball, Playhouse Yard, Black Friars.
The Rose and Ball, Bennets' Hill, Doctors' Commons.
The White Lyon in Thames Street.
The Green Dragon, St. Andrew's Hill.
The Old Parr's Head, Little Knightrider Street.
The Glaziers' Arms, Water Lane, Blackfriars.
The Crown Coffee House, Stationers' Court, Ludgate Street.
The Two Brewers, London Wall.

APPENDIX I.

STOW'S SURVEY (STRYPE) 1720.

"HERE shall follow a Scheme of the Companies, drawn up many years ago by Mr. Richard Smith, some time Secondary of the Compter, whereby, under one view, may be seen their order, and the particular Streets or Lanes where the respective Halls stand, or stood: With a note of such Societies as had no Hall, or no Livery, or both.

> The Companies or Societies of the Freemen of the City of London; their order with the Places where their several Halls are situate; Together with the latter Companies, that Have no halls, or no Liveries."

Order of the Companies.	Hall, where situate.
54 Basket-makers no livery.*	Broad Street.

* The Company at the present time ranks 52nd in order of precedence. The Livery was granted in 1825.

APPENDIX J.

EXTRACTS FROM THE HUGUENOT SOCIETY'S RETURNS OF ALIENS.

Lay Subsidy. November, 32 *Henry VIII.* [1540].

ESTSMYTHFELDE.

Rumbell, Basketmaker	iiij^{d}

THE PARYSHE OF SAYNT MARY HILL.

Vxor Goddeffreye (Goodwife Godfrey) basketmaker, in goodes	x^{li} . . .	x^{s}

Lay Subsidy. 30 *April*, 3 *Edward VI.* [1549].

SEYNT ANDREWES PARISSHE.

Jasper Alnold (Arnold)	xl^{li} .	iiij^{li}
Garret Mathew		
John Johnson		
Corneles Gouertson		
Nycholas Nyse		v^{s} iiij^{d}
Barow Johnson		
Mathew Farley		
Henry Farley and Arnold Garetson seruantes with Jesper Arnold . . .		
Corneles Johnson, basketmaker	viiij^{li} .	viiij^{s}
Anthony Williamson, basketmaker . . .		viij^{d}

Dutch Church, Registers of Members (commencing *circa* 1550).

Andries Jansen
Antonis Willekens
Burcher Janson
Cornelis Goyertsoen
Dierick Gheeraerdtsoen
Jan Muelener
Pieter Cornelissoen
Segher Dierickssoen.*

} BASKET MAKERS.

State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth. 22 *June* 1561.

(Nomina eorum qui se adiecerunt Ecclesiæ Germanicæ quæ est Londini).

Bucherus Janson, sportarius, inseruit cuipiam Anglo.

Joannes Zebedej, sportularius, inuenis, inseruiens Anglo cuipium.

Joannes Willhems, sportularius, inseruiens Anglo, sine liberis.

Jacobus Hendricksoon, sportularius, inseruiens Anglo cuipiam.

Laurentius Christiaen, sportularius.

Lansdowne MS.

Account of Strangers in the several parts of London and Westminster. At Easter 1567.

AT FRESH WHARF.

Clays van Brogen, within (the house of) Adrian Adrenson,† basketmaker, 1 yere. Dowch, not denizein.

AT THE STONE-HOWSE IN PHILPOT LANE.

James Baylye, and Mary his wif. 2 yeres. In Richard Grainger, basketmaker, his howse. Dowch, not denizein.

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* One of the twelve Basket Makers who entered into recognisance not to imperil the City by fire in 1539, *vide* p. 21.

† One of the Wardens of the Company, *vide* p. 149.

TOWER WARDE.

Thomas Bisshopp, basket maker. Dutchman. No denisen.

Lansdowne MS.

The Answer and Certificate of the Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Rowe, re number of Strangers, &c., 1568.

THE PARISHE OF ST. MARYE HILL.

John Myller, borne in Clevelande, basketmaker, denyson; of the Dowche churche.

THE PARISHE OF S. GEORGE AND S. MARGETTES, IN PUDDINGLANE.

James Adrian, denyson, basketmaker, borne in Holland, of the Englishe churche.

THE PARISHE OF S^{T} ANDROWES IN ESTCHEPE.

John Lyon, denyson, baskettmaker, borne in Honygo, and Katheryne his wif; of the Englishe churche.

Arnolde Giles, denysen, baskettmaker, borne in Brabant, Jacamy his wif, and William Waggyner and Cornelis Wart, his servantes; all of the Dowche churche.

Angell Mathewe, denyzen, basketmaker, borne at Leavin, and Catheryne his wif; of the Englishe churche; and Cornelis Peterson and Derick Lynse, his servantes; of the Dowche churche.

Mathew Faylande, denyzen, basketmaker, born at Cullen, and Margarett his wif, and Gyles Beche and Mathewe Castell his seruantes; of the Dowche churche.

Lambard Garratt, denizen, basketmaker, borne in Luke; of the Englishe churche.

Peter Foxe, baskettmaker, borne in Freselond, and Marten Slepyn, servantes to Androwe Banberye,* Inglishman; of the Dowche churche.

John Beche, basketmaker, borne in Luke, and John Thomas, servantes to Adrian Adreanson;* of the Dowche churche.

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* *Vide* notes, p. 168.

John Spicer, [basketmaker],* borne in Gaunte; Tymothe Lees, borne in Holland, of the Dowche churche; and Mathewe Spratt, borne in Valencine; all three basketmakers, seruantes to† Richard Robinson, Englishman; the same Mathewe Spratt goethe to the Frenche churche.

John Adilson, borne at Granau, John Cornelis, borne in Hollande, and Garrett Backhowse, borne in Facumborowe; basketmakers, seruantes, to John Johnson; of the Dowche churche.

THE PARISH OF S^T^ KATHERYNE CHRISTCHURCHE.

Peter Cornelius, denizen, basketmaker, borne in Hollande, and his ij children; of the Englishe churche; and Garrett Deroy, denyson, basketmaker, of the Dowche churche; tenante to Richard Rowe.

SAINTE MARTYNS PARISHE.

Ellys Foster, Ducheman, a basket maker; paiethe rent to William Cowerley, dyer.

SAINTE JAMES PARISHE.

Anthonny Devolo, a Duchman, a basketmaker; he is a denizen, and hathe a wif, and ij children; he paieth his rent to Robert Waryn, mynstrell, for the behofe of John Jones, merchauntailor, and goeth to the parishe churche.

THE WARDE OF PORTSOKIN.

Staffeld van Felmont, [denizen],‡ a baskatmaker, and Mary his wif, borne in Andwarp, goethe to the Dutche churche, and paithe rent to Brand, the goldsmithe.

IN THE MYNNERIES.

James Harrison, a basketmaker, borne in Holland, tenant to John Hide; he is of the parishe churche.

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* Struck out.

† "John Johnson" struck out; see next entry.

‡ Struck out.

State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth.

Return of Strangers in London, May 1571.

ALL HALLOWS STAININGE.

John Symsin, basket maker, xxx yeres in London, and iij yeres in this ward, borne in Gyllike. Douch.

Mathew Barnard, baskett maker, borne in Holland, hathe bene in this warde xv yeares. Douch.

SAINTE BOTHOLPHES.

Matice de Prue, basketmaker, * * * * *, cam into Englande iiij yeares nowe past. Burgonion.

ALGATE WARDE.

Peter Cornelys, a basketmaker, and freedenizein, borne in Southlande, and hath byn here these xxx^tie yeares Dowche.

SAINTE ANDROWE HUBBARDES PARISH.

John Lyon, dennyzein, and basketmaker, and Katheryne his wyfe, Dowche borne, have byn in England and in this warde xxviij yeares: and Henry Hewcart his seruaunte, of the same nacion. Douche.

Arnold Giles denysein, and basketmaker, and Jannekyn his wyfe, have byn in Englande and in this warde twentie yeares, and hath to servaunt Cornelius Foster, all of the Dowche nacion. Douche.

Haunce Pefrom, basketmaker, servant to one Thomas Robinson,* of the Douche nacion, hath byn in England and in this warde three yeares. Douche.

Angell Mathewe, widowe, denysein, and basketmaker, and hath byn in England and in this warde xx^tie yeares; and hath a servaunt, of the Douche nacion bothe, called Direck Lynsey. Douche.

Mathewe Fayllan, denyzein, and basketmaker, and Margarett his wyfe, of the Douche nacion, and hath byn

* One of the eleven Basket Makers enfranchised in 1569, *vide* p. 41.

in England xx^tie yeares, and in this parishe xvj yeares, and William Waganer his servaunt, of the same nacion. Douche.

Lambert Garret, dennyzein, and basketmaker, of the Douch nacion, hath byn in England xxx^tie yeares, and in this warde xx^tie yeares; within whome soiourneth one Baltizar a taillour, and Douche borne. Douch.

Mathew Desolarvam, basketmaker, Italian, hath byn in England and in this warde vj yeares, and is servaunte to one Awdrian Awdrianson. Italian.

VINTREY WARDE.

Anthonye Vanderwalls, Duchman, a basketmaker, free denizen: he haith an Englishe woman to his wif, and haith three children, and haith byne here thes xv yeres. Duch.

TOWER WARDE.

John Mud,* Duchman, a denizen, and a basketmaker, and haith byn here xlvj^ty yeres. Duch.

Andrewe Johnson, basketmaker, denizen of Luke Land, and haith byne here xl^tie yeres. Duch.

State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth.

Report of the Search of all the Strangers within London and Southwark, and the Liberties thereof, November 10th, 1571.

ALHALLOWES STAYNYNGES.

Barnarde Mattys, basketmaker, Douchman, borne in Deluke, came into this realme about lx yeres past.

SAINT ANDROWES PARYSHE IN ESCHEAPE.

John Lyon, householder, basketmaker, and dennyzein, born at Hennego, and Katheryne his wyfe, born in

* Evidently an old man who had exercised his craft in the City before the Company was established, and who was no doubt one of the Foreign Basket Makers mentioned in the Orders of 1585, and described as "Father Mude," *vide* p. 43.

Clevelande, hath dwelt here xxx^tie yeares, and come to there parishe churche.

Peter Fox, baskettmaker, borne in Freselande, and Marten Sleper, basketmaker, borne in Favken, borrowght, bothe servaunts to Androwe Banberye,* basketmaker, and haue remayned with hym vj yeares, and go to the Douche churche.

Mathew Dyslar, basketmaker, borne in Valencia, servant to Adreanson,† and hath remayned here v yeares, and resorteth to the Douche churche.

Arnolde Geyles, househoulder, basketmaker, and dennyzein, born in Wessell, in the country of Horne, and Jacamyn his wyfe, haue byn here xxx^tie yeres; and Cornelys Foster, his servaunte, borne in Brabant, and hath byn here viij yeares: and are of this parishe churche.

Mathew Deproyne, born at Hennego, and John Fever, basketmakers, servauntes to Richarde Robynson,‡ haue byn here iiij yeares, and resortes to the Frenche churche. Haunce Pyffron, his servaunte also, and basketmaker, born in Gaunt, hath byn here v yeares and is of the Douche churche.

John Vandelles, baskettmaker, borne in Brabant, hath byn in Englande v yeares, and cam to work his occupacion, and is servaunte with John Johnson,§ basketmaker.

Widowe Mathew, basketmaker, borne in Falkenborowe, and hath dwelt in Englande xx^tie yeares; and Derick Lawrance, her servaunte, hath byn her vj weekes, and is of this parishe.

Lambert Garrett, basketmaker, borne at Hennego, in

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* One of the eleven English Basket Makers enfranchised in 1569, *vide* p. 41.

† Probably one of the Wardens of the Company, *circa* 1600, and Churchwarden of St. Andrew Hubbard, *vide* p. 17.

‡ One of the eleven English Basket Makers enfranchised in 1569, *vide* p. 41.

§ Probably one of the eleven English Basket Makers enfranchised in 1569, *vide* p. 41.

Flaunders, hath dwelt here xvj yeares, and goeth to his parishe churche.

Widowe Faylande, baskettmaker, borne in Brabant, and hath dwelt in Englande xx^tie yeares, and resorteth to her parishe churche.

SAINTE SAUIORS PARISHE.

Eldricke Arnold, of Colyn of thage of xxvj^ty yeres, in England xxv yeres, was brought, being a suckinge child, by his father into England, by occupacion a basketmaker.

SAINCT JAMES PARISHE.

Anthonye Vandevallye, borne in Brabant, a basket-maker, and haith byne here xvj yeres.

SAINTE BOTTOLPHES PARISHE.

Xp'ofer Wolman, and Marye his wif, both borne in Antwerpe, they haue byne in England v yeres, came hither for his lyvinge, a basketmaker.

Cecil MSS.

Return by the Aldermen in response to the Lord Mayor's precept re number of Strangers, 1582–3.

THE WARDE OF LANGBORNE.

Denisen. Thomas Bishopp, basketmaker, of the Englishe Churche.

THE WARDE OF TOWER.

John Pipheron, basketmaker, and his wief, of the Dutche Churche.

THE WARDE OF QUENEHITHE.

Denisen. Robert Simpson, a basketmaker, of the Englishe Churche.

THE WARDE OF BRIDGE WITHOUT.

Eldrick Arnold, basketmaker, of the Englishe Churche.

Denizen. Marten Slipen, basketmaker, and Jane his wief, of the Dutche Churche.

THE WARDE OF BELINGSGATE.

Peter Foxe, basketmaker, and his wief, of the Englishe Churche.

Garett Johnson,* basketmaker, of Thenglishe Churche.

John Arnold, seruaunte to Richard Robinson,* basketmaker, of the Dutche Churche.

John Rease, servaunte with Johnson,† a basketmaker, of the Englishe Churche.

Cornelis Foster, basketmaker, of the Englishe Church.

John Vearson [or Pearson], Duchman, Basketmaker.

Cornelius Nicolas,‡ Duchman, Basketmaker.

Jonat Johnson, Duchman, Basketmaker.

TOWER WARDE.

John Peffold, Duche, Basketmaker.

NORTON FOLDGATE.

William Wagoner, baskettmaker, borne in Gaunte and Annes his wife, haue bene in England xvj yeares, and are of the Dutche churche. He hath two children, borne in England, no denison.

ST. JOHNS STRETE.

Moye Levtter, baskettmaker, borne in Paris, hath dwelte in England xxxiiij yeares, and is of the Englishe churche, no denison.

WHITECHAPPELL ALIAS ST. MARY MATFELLON.

Frauncis Cokmans,§ baskettmaker, and Jane his wife, borne in Brabant, he hath bene here v yeare; he is of the

* One of the "foreigners" mentioned in the Orders of 1585, *vide* p. 43.

† Probably one of the English Basket Makers enfranchised in 1569, *vide* p. 41.

‡ One of the "foreigners" mentioned in the Orders of 1585, *vide* p. 43.

§ One of the "foreigners" mentioned in the Orders of 1585, *vide* p. 43.

Dutche churche, and she of the Frenche churche, no denison.

Cecil MSS. 1582–3.

The annswer(s) of the Masters and Wardens of all the seuerall Companies within the Citie of London (which haue licensed anye straungers for anie consideracions to vse anye trade or occupacion within the same by the space of sixe yeres last past) to the seuerall preceptes to them directed from the righte honorable the Lord Maior of the same Citie.

THE COMPANIE OF BASKETMAKERS.

The Wardens of the said Companie haue nether licensed nor admitted any the persons herevnder named to vse their trade of making baskettes, nevertheles the same persons, being straungers, do some of them kepe servauntes vnder them, and paye nothing for vsing of their trade excepte thacustomed quarteredge; the names of which persons together with their servauntes here ensue, viz:—

Frauncis Cotman, a journeyman.

Marten Sleping, denizen, and his servaunte John.

State Papers, Domestic, James I.

Return (18 *September*, 1618), *by the Constables of the Liberty of the Clink, of the Strangers resident within their district.*

Peter Fox, basketmaker, borne in Sneak, in West Freezland, vnder Prince Morris, and is of the Dutch Church, and hath byn 50 yeares in England, aged 78 yeares. The mark of Peter X Fox.

Christofer Haymnges, basketmaker, borne at Applingdam, in Freezland, vnder Prince Morris, and is of the Dutch Church, aged 21, and worketh neare Maide Lane vnder Henry Adrianson of Eastcheap, in London. X

Peter Maule, basketmaker, borne at Arcklus in Gelderland, vnder Prince Morris, and is of the Dutch Church, and aged 42, and hath byn in England 22 yeares. [Signed:] Peter Moll.

Peter Wamus, basketmaker, borne at Anwarpe, vnder Duke Albertus, and is of the Dutch Church, and worketh vnder M^r. Wheatley,* dwelling in Eastcheap. [Signed:] Pieter Weemas.

Leife Highway, basketmaker, borne neare Gaunt, vnder the Arch Duke, of 3 yeares being in the Liberty, and vseth the Dutch Church, and dwelleth in Rose Alley, M^r. Edw. Hatton being his Landlord. The mark of Leif X Highway.

Peter Walloone, basketmaker, aged 20 yeares, borne in Dort, in Holland, vnder Prince Morric, of the Dutch Church, and worketh in Mosses Alley, vnder W^m. Paxston, of Breadstreet, in London. The mark of Peter X Walloone.

Garatt Haragoodes, a basketmaker, comminge from Gisborne, vnder the Kinge of Spaine, and frequenteth the Duch Church, and hath dwelt here 7 yeares. [Signed:] Gheeraert Heerregodts.

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* Probably identical with "William Wheatlie," Prime Warden, *circa* 1600, *vide* p. 149.

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PART TWO

Records of the Basketmakers' Company of the City of London

1907–67

Compiled by
SIDNEY ALFRED PERRIN

Part two of this volume is dedicated
to my Colleagues, The Wardens and the Court
of Assistants, together with the Liverymen and Freemen
of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers
of the City of London.

The Court of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers of the City of London, 1966–67

Principal Officers

Prime Warden
Lieutenant-Colonel Hewitt Errington Brewis

Junior Warden
Paul Gordon Ronald

Honorary Chaplain
Reverend Dr Gordon Huelin

Honorary Trade Advisers to the Court
Sidney Alfred Perrin
William Smith Jordan, B.E.M.

Beadle
William Richard Long

Clerk
Cecil Alfred Rust
9/10 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3

COURT OF ASSISTANTS

Elected on the Court	
1924	Nathan Moss (*Past Prime Warden*)
1925	William Bertram de Ste. Croix
1933	Alderman Sir S. Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A. (*Past Prime Warden*)
1938	Percy Thomas Lovely, Deputy (*Past Prime Warden*) Past Sheriff
1940	Cyril Turner, Deputy (*Past Prime Warden*)
1943	Frank John Hunt (*Past Prime Warden*)
1947	Eric James Butler (*Past Prime Warden*)
1947	Sidney Alfred Perrin (*Past Prime Warden*)
1947	Colonel Walter Ernest Loweth, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.C. (*Past Prime Warden*)
1948	Herbert Ernest Kingsman (*Past Prime Warden*)
1950	Albert Walter Scott, J.P. (*Past Prime Warden*)
1951	Sir Sydney Littlewood (*Past Prime Warden*)
1953	Victor Albert Ercolani (*Past Prime Warden*)
1955	Moreton Hedley Riches, F.A.L.P.A.
1955	Harold Goldman, Deputy (*Past Prime Warden*)
1956	Walter Henry Whittleton Doughty
1956	Albert Percy Costain, M.P. (*Past Prime Warden*)
1957	Arthur Leslie Wade, F.C.A. (*Past Prime Warden*)
1957	Lt-Col. Hewitt Errington Brewis (*Prime Warden*)
1958	Paul Gordon Ronald (*Junior Warden*)
1958	Albert Edward Brooke
1959	Edgar John Rutter
1959	Arthur Dennis Colton Haines, F.C.A.
1959	Eric Frederick Wilkins, C.B.E., F.C.A., Deputy
1960	Cecil Alfred Rust
1961	Reginald William Farrin
1961	Frederick Robert Hopkins, F.C.A.
1961	Bernard Loweth Morgan, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.
1962	Wilfred Sears Ince

Elected on the Court	
1962	Charles Edwin Hipkins
1963	David Archibald Wilkie, J.P., F.R.I.B.A.
1964	Vivian Brodzky
1965	Charles Henry Day
1966	Harry Edward Drake
1966	Tom Brown Sillars
1966	Arthur Frederick Joseph Vernon-Penrose

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE COURT

1933	Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A. (*Past Prime Warden*)

PREFACE

The Court having decided to have a reprint of the book *Records of the Basketmakers Company* compiled by Henry Hodgkinson Bobart, first published in 1911, the period covered being up to 1907, required the book to be brought up to date, so that a perusal of the records from that time onwards was necessary.

Henry Bobart's references to personalities was in the main confined to people of another age; whereas the present search is related in many instances to persons with whom the writer has had the good fortune of coming into contact.

Shortly after the research began, an item of considerable interest to the writer cropped up, for under the date 7 November 1906 it is recorded that his father and Mr H. H. Bobart were admitted to the Freedom of the Company on the same day. This served as a very useful beginning, as it pin-pointed the first acquaintanceship with Henry Bobart. Although only a teenager at that time, the writer was soon brought into contact with one of the most successful and dedicated Clerks that this Company has ever had.

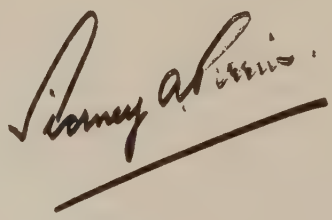
Soon after his election as Clerk in 1907, he made it his business to see how the process of basketmaking was conducted, and it was the writer's good fortune to act as his mentor during his early search for the "know how" of the mysteries of basketmaking.

It was a privilege to enjoy his friendship and confidence up to the time of his death at Horsham in 1952. It was always a pleasure to co-operate with him in matters relating to the welfare of the Company, and the very helpful liaison he so much desired to foster with the basketmaking industry.

During his year of Office (1962–63) Prime Warden Victor Ercolani was responsible for initiating research into the compilation of these notes. Especial thanks are due to him for his enthusiastic interest in this project and for his continued wise counsel. Acknowledgement is also cordially extended to our

worthy Clerk, Cecil A. Rust, Esq., for his ever ready co-operation in providing the well-kept Minutes from which many of these details have been collated; to Norman Cook, Esq., Keeper of the Guildhall Museum of the Corporation of the City of London, in providing a photographic reproduction of the fragment of ancient basketware unearthed at the time of the excavations on the Walbrook site (1955–6) and also for the facilities accorded in reconditioning the Company's exhibits of ancient Egyptian basketwork, damaged during the Blitz (1940–5); to Walter J. Verco, Esq., Chester Herald of the College of Arms London, for his interpretation of the Company's Coat of Arms; and to those several young ladies who were so keenly interested in transforming the original MS. into legible type.

Ashbury House,
Hatfield,
Hertfordshire.
January 1967.



Prime Warden Col. H. Errington Brewis, Junior Warden Paul Gordon Ronald, and Clerk Cecil Alfred Rust (1966–7)

THE COURT MEETING OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS AT INNHOLDERS' HALL, 20 OCTOBER 1965

THE OCTOBER COURT, 1965

Front row, left to right:
Sidney A. Perrin, PPW
Deputy Cyril Turner, PPW
Deputy Percy T. Lovely, PPW
Arthur L. Wade, Junior Warden
Albert P. Costain, M.P., Prime Warden
Rev. Dr Gordon Huelin, Honorary Chaplain
Nathan Moss, PPW
Frank J. Hunt, PPW
Eric J. Butler, PPW

Back row, left to right:
W. S. Inch
V. Brodzky
D. A. Wilkie
M. H. Riches
B. L. Morgan
Victor A. Ercolani, PPW
Col. H. Errington Brewis
A. D. C. Haines
Cecil A. Rust, Clerk
P. G. Ronald
W. H. W. Doughty
H. E. Kingsman, PPW
A. E. Brooke
F. R. Hopkins
G. J. F. Keeling, Steward
H. N. Wylie, Steward
W. R. Long, Beadle

PPW signifies Past Prime Warden

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PAST UPPER WARDENS OF THE COMPANY

(later known as Prime Wardens)

Clement Holmes
Adrian Adrianson
William Addersburie
William Weatlie
Thomas Oliffe
John Clarke
1610 Robert Brackin
1618 Robert Mounte
1622 Richard Bingham

With the exception of the above, the names of the Wardens prior to 1661 are not known, the records having been destroyed in the Great Fire of London, 1666.

1661–63 Richard Earl
1665–67 Edmund Peirson
1669–71 Robert Harding
1673–75 Adrian Peirson
1677–79 Robert Harding
1681–85 Adrian Peirson
1686–87 William Fielder
1689–91 Philip Allett
1693–95 Benjamin Evans
1697–99 John Berrey
1701–03 James Herring
1705–07 Stephen Goldsmith
1709–11 John Cole
1713–15 William Ogborn
1717–19 Frances Watts
1721–23 Benjamin Johnson
1725–27 Thomas Bolter
1663–65 William Kitchen
1667–69 Anthony Watts
1671–73 Mathew Keene
1675–77 Thomas Hall
1679–81 Anthony Watts
1685–86 Richard Reading
1687–89 James Dickenson
1691–93 John Alcott
1695–97 John Johnson
1699–1701 John Dobbs
1703–05 William Pollett
1707–09 William Costen
1711–13 William Hancock
1715–17 John Kelson
1719–21 John Gallington
1723–25 Fulkes Wenham
1727–29 Benjamin Payne

1729–31	James Bull	1731–33	Benjamin Bechenoe
1733–35	William Deal	1735–37	Richard Cutter
1737–39	Peter Buck	1739–41	Henry Wilson
1741–43	Henry Wilson	1743–45	William Slade
1745–47	William Howson	1747–49	Nathaniel Jeynes
1749–51	Benjamin Bechenoe	1751–53	William Boulter
1753–55	William Handleby	1755–57	John Clark
1757–59	Henry Willson, Jnr	1759–61	Robert Samuel
1761–63	William Spinnage	1763–65	Edward White
1765–67	John Radford	1767–69	Benjamin Hamnett
1769–71	Robert Kemshead	1771–73	John Haveil
1773–75	Richard Hollingsworth	1775–77	Henry Wilson
1777–79	Richard Hollingsworth	1779–81	Benjamin Hamnett
1781–83	Benjamin Hamnett	1783–85	William White, Snr
1785–1807	Thomas Allum	1807–09	Benjamin Philips
1809–19	Edward White	1819–24	Richard Allum
1824–26	Thomas Okey	1826–29	George Tucker
1829–31	William Mallard	1831–33	Thomas Okey
1833–41	Samuel Walden	1841–46	John Harris

	Prime Warden	*Junior Warden*
1846–81	Edward White	Edward White, Jnr
1881–82	Edward White, Jnr	James George White
1882–83	James George White	William Thomas Parmly Montgomery
1883–84	William Thomas Parmly Montgomery	Thomas John Robins
1884–85	Thomas John Robins	Alexander Millar
1885–86	Alexander Millar	William Philip Nettleship
1886–87	William Philip Nettleship	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.
1887–88	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.	Edward James Anning, C.C.
1888–89	Edward James Anning, C.C.	John George Dibble

	Prime Warden	*Junior Warden*
1889–90	John George Dibble	Charles Kendall
1890–91	Charles Kendall	Edward Adams Perrin
1891–92	Edward Adams Perrin	John Wale
1892–93	John Wale	William Parson Tapper
1893–94	William Parson Tapper	James Palmer Pike
1894–95	James Palmer Pike	Ambrose Andrew Tapper
1895–96	Ambrose Andrew Tapper	William Herbert Harrison
1896–97	William Herbert Harrison	Thomas John Robins
1897–98	Thomas John Robins	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.
1898–99	Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.	Edward Knott
1899–1900	Edward Knott	James George Unite
1900–01	James George Unite	Henry Edwin Sambrook
1901–02	Henry Edwin Sambrook	Richard Thomas Sambrook
1902–03	Richard Thomas Sambrook	George Henry Finch
1903–04	George Henry Finch	John Whittle Harvey
1904–05	John Whittle Harvey	William Philip Goosey
1905–06	William Philip Goosey	Frederick Dunn
1906–07	Frederick Dunn	Frederick Henry Pullen
1907–08	Frederick Henry Pullen	Alfred Double, C.C., J.P.
1908–09	Alfred Double, C.C., J.P.	Horace Robert Spence
1909–10	Horace Robert Spence	Palmer Bryant
1910–11	Palmer Bryant	Reuben Henry Frost
1911–12	Reuben Henry Frost	Walter Young, LL.B., J.P.
1912–13	Walter Young, LL.B., J.P.	Augustus George Grantham
1913–14	Augustus George Grantham	Richard Feesey
1914–15	Richard Feesey	Arthur Blenkarn
1915–16	Arthur Blenkarn	William Williams Bullworthy, C.C.
1916–17	William Williams Bullworthy, C.C.	James Charles Napoleon White

	Prime Warden	*Junior Warden*
1917–18	James Charles Napoleon White	Rev. John Henry Etchel, M.A.
1918–19	Rev. John Henry Etchel, M.A.	William Foster Gresham, F.C.A.
1919–20	William Foster Gresham, F.C.A.	Robert William Moffrey, J.P.
1920–21	Robert William Moffrey, J.P.	James Edward Bennett
1921–22	Charles James Richard Tijou	Sir Stanley Johnson, M.P.
1922–23	Sir Stanley Johnson, M.P.	Sir George Haysom, C.C.
1923–24	Sir George Haysom, C.C.	Lt-Col. Sir Henry Busby Bird, J.P.
1924–25	Lt-Col. Sir Henry Busby Bird, J.P.	George Joseph Pryor
1925–26	George Joseph Pryor	Sidney Young, F.S.S.
1926–27	Sidney Young, F.S.S.	Charles Morgan Williams
1927–28	Charles Morgan Williams	Thomas Patmore
1928–29	Thomas Patmore	James Newman Butler
1929–30	James Newman Butler	John Benjamin Schrader
1930–31	John Benjamin Schrader	Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., HON.C.F.
1931–32	Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., HON.C.F.	William Arthur Dickson
1932–33	William Arthur Dickson	James George Parker, M.B.E.
1933–34	James George Parker, M.B.E.	Nathan Moss
1934–35	Nathan Moss	Sir Henry Davenport, J.P., C.C.
1935–36	Sir Henry Davenport, J.P., C.C.	Frederick William Ingle Lowe, C.C.
1936–37	Frederick William Ingle Lowe, C.C.	Herbert Edwin Pryor

	Prime Warden	*Junior Warden*
1937–38	Herbert Edwin Pryor	Walter William Nobbs, M.I.MECH.E.
1938–39	Walter William Nobbs, M.I.MECH.E.	Harry Alexander Dormer, A.M.I.MECH.E.
1939–40	Harry Alexander Dormer, A.M.I.MECH.E.	Edward Herbert Anning, F.R.G.S., C.C.
1940–41	James Newman Butler	Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.
1941–42	Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.	Capt. Sidney Harold Gillett, M.C., F.C.A., C.C.
1942–43	Alderman Sir S. Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A.	Alfred Kent
1943–44	Alfred Kent	Daniel Searle
1944–45	Daniel Searle	William Lewis
1945–46	William Lewis	Joseph Walter Vincent, F.C.A.
1946–47	Joseph Walter Vincent, F.C.A.	Sir Richard Sennett, K.ST.J.
		Henry Hodgkinson Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A., F.S.A.A.
1947–48	Henry Hodgkinson Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A., F.S.A.A.	James Charles Fay, A.C.I.S.
1948–49	James Charles Fay, A.C.I.S.	George Little, J.P., F.C.A., C.C.
1949–50	George Little, J.P., F.C.A., C.C.	Percy Thomas Lovely, Deputy
1950–51	Percy Thomas Lovely, Deputy	Cyril Turner, Deputy
1951–52	Cyril Turner, Deputy	Thomas Oswald Maycock
1952–53	Thomas Oswald Maycock	Frank John Hunt
1953–54	Frank John Hunt	Eric James Butler
1954–55	Eric James Butler	Sidney Alfred Perrin
1955–56	Sidney Alfred Perrin	Major Harold Marshall

	Prime Warden	*Junior Warden*
1956–57	Major Harold Marshall	Col. Walter Ernest Loweth, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.C.
1957–58	Col. Walter Ernest Loweth, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.C.	Herbert Ernest Kingsman
1958–59	Herbert Ernest Kingsman	Albert Walter Scott, J.P.
1959–60	Albert Walter Scott, J.P.	Walter James Lewington
1960–61	Walter James Lewington	Sir Sydney Charles Thomas Littlewood
1961–62	Sir Sydney Charles Thomas Littlewood	Victor Albert Ercolani
1962–63	Victor Albert Ercolani	Harold Goldman, Deputy
1963–64	Harold Goldman, Deputy	Albert Percy Costain, M.P.
1964–65	Albert Percy Costain, M.P.	Arthur Leslie Wade, F.C.A.
1965–66	Arthur Leslie Wade, F.C.A.	Lt-Col. Hewitt Errington Brewis
1966–67	Lt-Col. Hewitt Errington Brewis	Paul Gordon Ronald

PRIME WARDEN

UNDER the original Ordinances of the Mayor and Court of Aldermen in 1569, the office of Upper Warden was held for a period of two years; this arrangement was adhered to until about 1790 when the Company gradually relinquished many of its powers of control over the trade of basketmaking. A period then existed during which willing occupants held office for varying sessions. This persisted until 1881 when the designation Prime Warden was adopted instead of Upper Warden; there then being a line of keen candidates for the office, a procedure was arrived at to curtail the two-year period. At the expiration of one year the ruling Prime Warden tendered his resignation and a successor was duly elected on similar lines. This arrangement was consolidated in the Company's Royal Charter of 1937, whereby the Prime Warden was elected by the Court in October each year. The Junior Warden was likewise elected at the same Court.

At present there are 84 City Livery Companies, but it is interesting to note that there are only six of these who have Prime Wardens. They are, in order of precedence:

Fishmongers (No. 4)	Blacksmiths (No. 40)
Goldsmiths (No. 5)	Basketmakers (No. 52)
Dyers (No. 13)	Shipwrights (No. 59)

The numbers in brackets denote the position in the Livery List in strict order of precedence which was settled in ancient times.

The remaining 78 Livery Companies make use of the term Master, with the exception of the oldest City Company—The Weavers, who have an Upper Bailiff.

Of the 84 Livery Companies, twelve are known as the Great Companies and rank in the following order:

1. Mercers	3. Drapers
2. Grocers	4. Fishmongers

5. Goldsmiths
6. Skinners
7. Merchant Taylors
8. Haberdashers
9. Salters
10. Ironmongers
11. Vintners
12. Clothworkers

It has long been the practice to present the outgoing Prime Warden with a Collarette and Badge, suitably inscribed, on having passed the Chair. The manufacture of these badges was out of the question during war time and as a consequence five past Prime Wardens were not so rewarded, but on 15 October 1947 deferred acknowledgements were made and the following Past Prime Wardens were duly invested with their badges of office:

Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.	1941–42
Major Sydney Harold Gillett, M.C., F.C.A., C.C.*	1942–43
Alfred Kent	1943–44
Daniel Searle	1944–45
William Lewis	1945–46

As already seen, it was commonplace for the principal Officer of the Company (the Upper Warden) to occupy the Chair for two years consecutively, and sometimes even longer, but as from 1881 there has been a steady sequence of successors for the Office of Prime Warden. Only in three instances has a Prime Warden served the Office on two occasions, other than the one or two cases where a Past Prime Warden has been called upon to deputize in that capacity owing to the unfortunate demise in Office of the rightful occupier. In 1929–30 Mr James Newman Butler (Mayor of Stoke Newington 1935) occupied the Chair, and again in very difficult war years 1940–41. This second tour on his part was occasioned by the next likely successor to the Office falling sick, and Mr Newman Butler stepped into the breach during a very exacting period. It is interesting to note that Mr Newman Butler's son, Mr Eric James Butler, occupied the position of Prime Warden in 1954–55.

* Later Alderman Sir S. Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A., Lord Mayor of London 1958–59.

The three Prime Wardens who served the Office twice are:

Thomas John Robins	1884–85 and 1897–98
Richard Stevens Sly, J.P.	1887–88 and 1898–99
James Newman Butler	1929–30 and 1940–41

Mr Newman Butler's second term of Office was, by order of the Court, recorded on his Past Prime Warden's Badge, giving the periods of service as specified above.

THE CLERKSHIP

THE Clerk's duties are indeed quite onerous: he has to assist in recording and maintaining continuity, for Prime Wardens may come, Prime Wardens do go, but the Clerk, although elected annually, usually goes on indefinitely.

The period of office of Edwin Whitley Smith (1906) proved of short duration, for he died a few brief months after his appointment. The Company then made a very decided effort to find a suitable replacement. Applications for the post were received from 11 contenders—a short list was arrived at, and after a series of eliminating elections, the far-sighted selection resulted in Henry Hodgkinson Bobart being appointed, a position he held with honour and distinction for 46 years. During the time that these elections were being conducted, the clerkship was maintained on a temporary basis by two of the Company's Past Prime Wardens, W. T. P. Montgomery (1883–84) and F. H. Pullen (1907–08).

In order to assist Henry Bobart in his later years, Deputy Clerks were appointed:

1. Arthur Dennis Colton Haines, F.C.A. (1944–47), who resigned on his appointment as Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. He subsequently was called on the Livery and later was elected a member of the Court of Assistants.
2. Albert Victor Hussey, F.S.A.A. (1948).
3. Kenneth George Darke, M.A., F.C.A. (1949), a Liveryman who was elected to the full Clerkship in 1953.

During Henry Bobart's Prime Wardenship (1947–48) and when the Clerk was laid up in 1949 he was assisted in the Clerical Duties by Past Prime Warden Eric James Butler (1954–55).

In October 1954, Cecil Alfred Rust was appointed Clerk of the Company.

THE CLERKS

1618 Thomas Leeche
1666 Christopher Pym
1684 James Oliver
1694 Needler Webb
1730 William Benson
1737 Joshua Cox
1746 William Boulter
1761 Thomas Allum
1767 Richard Allum
1808 Samuel Isaac Lilly
1829 Thomas Theobalds
1829 Frederick Temple
1838 William Walker
1873 Edward White
1878 Edward White, Junior
1883 James George White, C.C., J.P.
(*Deputy Alderman for the Ward of Walbrook*)
1906 Edwin Whitley Smith
1907 Henry Hodgkinson Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A.
(*Prime Warden 1947–48*)
1953 Kenneth George Darke, M.A., F.C.A.
1954 Cecil Alfred Rust

THE CHAPLAINCY AND CHURCH MATTERS

FROM about the eleventh century when the Guilds began to assume form, until today the Companies have been an important part of City life. At first the Guilds were a mixture of trade and religious interests, with possibly religion predominating; worship at church, the care of their members in sickness and adversity, a decent burial, and prayers for the departed were the essence of Guild life. Gradually the emphasis changed and the Guilds assumed control of the trade associated with their own particular craft. With the Reformation the survival of the Guilds depended on their secular activities, and the religious element became less pronounced. Finally the Guilds, unable to impose their control owing to changed circumstances, declined as a force, but a resurgence in another form of their activities followed, much valuable work in connection with the administration of charitable funds and the promotion of craftsmanship took its place.

The Guild church of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap, (rebuilt by Wren 1694–9) after the Great Fire 1666, and unfortunately again damaged by flying bombs in 1945) was always regarded as the Basketmakers' Church. The Rev. St Barbe S. Sladen, M.A., in his address at the Company's Election Service on 27 November 1930, referred to the interesting fact that the Basketmakers had been connected with the Parish and St Margaret Pattens Church from the year 1479. This relationship still exists (1967), for the Rev. Dr Gordon Huelin, an honorary Liveryman, is the Company's Honorary Chaplain, whilst two of its Past Prime Wardens, Mr Deputy Percy T. Lovely and Mr Frank J. Hunt, are Church Wardens.

Occasionally the Company's election services have been held at other City churches such as St Lawrence Jewry, St Mary at Hill, St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, and St Sepulchre, Holborn.

HONORARY CHAPLAINS

	Appointed
Rev. John Henry Etchel, M.A. (*Prime Warden 1918–19*) Poplar and Stepney Hospital, Bromley by Bow	20 October 1920
Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., HON.C.F. (*Prime Warden 1931–32*) (*Acting Prime Warden 1932–33*) (*Owing to death in office of William Arthur Dickson*) Vicar of St Albans, Teddington, Middx.	21 January 1931
Rev. John Francis Arnold Carter (*Liveryman*) Vicar of Lillington, Leamington Spa Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Coventry	18 October 1944
Rev. G. M. Bosworth, M.A. Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral Vicar of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap	15 October 1958
Rev. Dr Gordon Huelin (*Honorary Liveryman*) Vicar of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap	16 July 1963

When it was not possible for the Company to avail itself of the services of its own chaplain, it has been fortunate to secure the assistance of many well-known City clerics to address its members at its Election Services.

A number of names come to mind in this connection:

Rt Rev. Lord Bishop of Willesden, Dr Perrin, D.D.
Rt Rev. Bishop S. M. Taylor, D.D.
Rev. St Barbe S. Sladen, M.A., Rector of St Margaret Pattens
Rev. A. Lombardini, A.K.C., Rector of St Lawrence Jewry
Rev. R. H. Couchman, Rector of St Lawrence Jewry
Rev. N. E. Egerton Smith, B.A., Rector of St Margaret Pattens
Rev. F. H. E. Harfitt, Rector of St Mary at Hill
Rev. J. D. Richards, Priest in Charge St Margaret Pattens
Assisted by Rev. G. F. Davies (*Liveryman*)
Rev. G. H. Salter, M.A., Rector of St Sepulchre, Holborn

Rev. Dr N. E. Wallbank, M.A., MUS.DOC., Rector of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield
(Founded by Rahere in 1123)

On 25 March 1943, the United Guilds' Service was inaugurated at St Paul's Cathedral, London. This proved to be a very colourful ceremony and is now an annual event. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs attend these services in state, whilst the representatives of the various Guilds appear in their robes, wearing their Badges and Chains of Office. The Civic Party is met on arrival at the steps leading up to the Cathedral by the Chairman of the Committee and the Masters of the Mercers' and Grocers' Companies, who escort them to the West Door. Here a procession is formed, embracing, amongst others, the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Companies whose representation has been decided by a yearly rota.

An innovation of recent years has been the introduction of a fanfare by the trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall, announcing the arrival of the Civic Party; this arrangement was in no small measure contributed to by a Member of our Court (A. D. C. Haines, Esq.).

10 OCTOBER 1957

The Church of St Sepulchre, Holborn, is in the process of restoration: this church has occasionally been the venue of the Company's Annual Service. It was resolved to contribute to the Fund.

22 APRIL 1966

A letter from the Honorary Chaplain, Rev. Dr Gordon Huelin, stated that St Margaret Pattens has been a Guild Church since 1962 and as such is without a parish. In consequence it is dependent upon the generosity of friends for financial upkeep and support. It was therefore resolved that the Company should enter into a charitable covenant.

THE WARTIME COURT OF 15 JULY 1942 HELD AT GUILDHALL HOUSE, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.

Mr S. Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A., Prime Warden
Major S. H. Gillett, M.C., C.C., Junior Warden
Mr J. Newman Butler, Immediate Past Prime Warden
Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., Honorary Chaplain
Mr H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., Clerk
Mr Daniel Searle
Mr F. W. Ingle Lowe, C.C.

Mr H. E. Pryor
Mr W. W. Nobbs
Mr Alfred Kent
Mr William Lewis
Mr J. W. Vincent
Sir Richard Sennett
Mr Bertie Williams

Mr J. C. Fay
Mr George Little, J.P., C.C.
Mr Percy T. Lovely
Mr Cyril Turner, C.C.
Mr T. O. Maycock
Captain Gerald Lowry
Mr T. R. Chandler

Twenty-one of the persons appearing in the photograph are Members of the Court. There are three visitors, one of whom, the Rev. J. F. A. Carter, eventually became the Company's Honorary Chaplain, succeeding the Rev. Herbert Williams.

Prime Warden's Chain and Badge of Office
presented by Mrs Constance White, 7 November 1916

THE MAYORALTY

The Basketmakers Company is proud of the fact that five of its members have occupied the Civic Chair. Sir Charles Batho, Sir George Broadbridge, Sir William Coxen, Sir George Wilkinson, K.C.V.O., LL.D., and Sir Harold Gillett, who is a Past Prime Warden of this Company and an active member of its Court. The Court is also ably assisted by a Past Sheriff, a number of Deputy Aldermen, one of whom at present is the Chief Commoner Mr Deputy Eric Wilkins, C.B.E., F.C.A., and several Common Councilmen. The mention of Sir George Wilkinson's name recalls the fact that it was during his term of office as Lord Mayor that the Guildhall was so badly blitzed. Amongst the items destroyed were the grotesque figures of Gog and Magog. These two mighty giants started life as basketwork effigies, but it is delightful to know that Sir George donated a replacement for these two historic figures; they are carvings and are really works of art, not so awe-inspiring as the originals.

The Wilkinson family has a long association with the Basketmakers Company, for Sir George's great-grandfather was admitted to the Freedom and Livery of this Company in the year 1831.

Lord Mayors who were Members of the Company and their year of office:

Alderman Sir Charles Batho, Bt	1927–28
Alderman Sir George Broadbridge, Bt, K.C.V.O. (Later Lord Broadbridge)	1936–37
Alderman Sir William Coxen, Bt	1939–40
Alderman Sir George Wilkinson, Bt, K.C.V.O., LL.D.	1940–41
Alderman Sir S. Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A.	1958–59

The Company had a further link with the Mayoralty in 1925, although the circumstances were charged with sorrow, for the Lord Mayor, Sir William Pryke suffered a severe loss in the death of his wife. However, he was fortunate in having

a very practical daughter who deputized for her late mother during the remainder of his year of office, and who later became the wife of the highly respected and active member of our Court, Past Prime Warden, Mr Deputy Cyril Turner.

Currently serving Aldermen

Sir George Wilkinson, Bt, K.C.V.O., LL.D.
Sir S. Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A.

Currently serving Deputy Aldermen

Percy Thomas Lovely
Cyril Turner
Harold Goldman
Eric Frederick Wilkins, C.B.E.

Currently serving Common Councilmen

Colonel Walter Ernest Loweth, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.
Bernard Loweth Morgan, M.B.E., J.P.
Neville Rayner, J.P.
John Gerald Gapp, D.L., B.SC., F.C.I.S.
Alfred Maunder Parkin
Robert Rayleigh
Wilfred Hartley Wharton, J.P.
William George Alfred Harries, P.H.C., H.C., M.P.S.

THE SHRIEVALTY

THE office of Sheriff is of greater antiquity than any other in the City of London, it is mentioned in Anglo-Saxon laws of the seventh century. On Midsummer day the Livery in Common Hall assembled at Guildhall is called upon to elect two Sheriffs, who assume office in September. One of the candidates is usually an Alderman, who has to serve as a Sheriff before he can qualify later for election to the Mayoralty. The other, the lay Sheriff, is a member of the Livery.

The office is by no means a sinecure and involves the holder in many onerous duties and personal financial expense.

The Company is justly proud of its list of Sheriffs who have functioned in this capacity since 1916.

Sir Denys Lowson, Bt, was the first Lord Mayor to undertake a round-the-world tour of the Dominions and the United States of America by land, sea, and air during his year of office (1950–51). One of the City Sheriffs who accompanied him on that tour was Past Prime Warden Mr Deputy Percy T. Lovely.

List of Sheriffs, Members of the Company

*Sir George Haysom, C.C.	1916
Sir Sydney Wishart	1920
Sir Thomas Dron, C.C.	1923
Sir Richard Sennett, C.C.	1924
Sir Harold Moore	1926
*Sir Henry Davenport, J.P., C.C.	1927
Sir Frederick Green	1927
Sir William Coxen, Bt	1928
Sir George Broadbridge, Bt, K.C.V.O., M.P.	1931
Sir George Wilkinson, Bt, K.C.V.O., LL.D.	1931
Sir Lacon Threlford, M.B.E.	1932
*Mr Deputy Percy T. Lovely	1950
*Sir Harold Gillett, Bt, M.C., F.C.A.	1952

Those marked * have served the office of Prime Warden.

Of the above the following served the office of Lord Mayor:

Sir George Broadbridge (later Lord Broadbridge)	1936
Sir William Coxen	1939
Sir George Wilkinson	1940
Sir Harold Gillett	1958

STEWARDS

At the October Election Meeting of the Court, not less than two or more than five members of the Livery, in order of seniority, are appointed as Stewards; they are entitled to "sit in" at Court Meetings, and function on other occasions as required. They exercise their Stewardship until the next Election Court. This arrangement is to acquaint them with the procedure of Court Meetings in anticipation of their election as Assistant at a later date.

THE BEADLE

THE office of Beadle is one of long standing in the City Guilds. In this Company he is the Mace Bearer and general factotum; his duties include personal attendance upon the Prime Warden at official functions and on occasions of hospitality.

J. H. Holden, appointed 17 April 1912
J. A. Hickling, „ 20 May 1925
W. R. Long, „ 28 October 1942*

* Admitted to the Honorary Freedom, 17 April 1957, for his loyal and faithful service to the Company over many years.

THE LIVERY

The Mayor and Court of Alderman in 1560 decreed that no further Company should assume a Livery without its consent. This Company therefore functioned under the Ordinances of the Mayor and Court of Aldermen. A decided effort was made in 1775 to obtain the grant of a Livery but the petition was not successful, and it was not until 1825 that the Company's Livery was established.

Details of the Livery Grants

In 1825 a Livery of 30 was granted
„ 1901 Livery increased to 80
„ 1918 „ „ „ 130
„ 1924 „ „ „ 200
„ 1948 „ „ „ 300
„ 1966 „ „ „ 400

ANCIENT CHARGE TO THE LIVERY

At a Court Meeting on 19 July 1944 it was pointed out that in the procedure for the admission of a Freeman, the declaration made was identical with the wording of the Company's old Oath of 1569, but with regard to the declaration to the Liverymen, it was recommended by Dr E. A. Ebblewhite, President of the Fellowship of Clerks of Livery Companies, that those not in possession of the original Charge should adopt the following from an early seventeenth century Charge. Viz.

You shall be a good and true Brother unto the Company of Basket-makers whereof you are now a full Brother admitted.

You shall keep to your Power all the lawful ordinances and acts made within your said Fraternity so far as shall concern or belong to your Charge.

All these points as much as in you is you shall well and truly keep and observe to your Power as near as God shall send you Grace.

This Charge was adopted by the Court.

The normal continuity towards the Prime Warden's Chair was sadly disturbed on 19 February 1947 by the death of the Junior Warden, Sir Richard Sennett, C.C., who had served the office of Sheriff in 1924. This occurrence occasioned a vacancy on the Court and the opportunity was taken to elect Henry Bobart to fill the post, a very popular choice, for he was thus able to function as Junior Warden for the remainder of the period, in preparation for his elevation to the Prime Wardenship on 15 October 1947, a position he duly served with dignity and honour.

The undermentioned Members of the Company have served the Office of President of the City Livery Club:

Thomas Patmore, Esq.	1925–26
Sir William Coxen, Bt	1931–32
Sir George Wilkinson, Bt	1933–34
Sir George Broadbridge, Bt	1935–36
Mr Deputy Percy T. Lovely	1949–50

On 3 March 1966, a successor to the late Deputy Stanley Bell, Honorary Secretary of the City Livery Club, was appointed in the person of Bernard Loweth Morgan, Esq., M.B.E., J.P., C.C., a Liveryman and Member of the Court of Assistants of this Company.

Her Royal Highness Princess Mary receiving the Honorary Freedom from Prime Warden Frank J. Hunt, 2 February 1954, at Butchers' Hall, London

Display Case containing Her Majesty Queen Mary's presentation baskets

ST. JAMES'S PALACE,
S.W.1.
WHITEHALL ~~1033~~ 4115

November 24th
1953.

It is with the greatest pleasure that I accept the invitstion of the Worhsipful Company of Basketmakers to receive the Honorary Freedom of your ancient Company.

I am conscious of the interest which my Mother, Her late Majesty Queen Mary, took in the Company and in the craft of basket making, and it will be my pride to continue this association.

I look forward to receiving this honour at your hands.

Mary.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARY'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE HONORARY FREEDOM

MAREWOOD HOUSE,
LEEDS.

I find it difficult to express in adequate words the very great pleasure it gives me to receive the Honorary Freedom of this ancient Company. The long and close association which my mother had with the Basketmakers makes me very proud and glad to continue the link - by succeeding Queen Mary as an Honorary Freeman.

Of baskets and basketmaking there is much that one could say - their uses go back so far into recorded history and beyond, that it must surely have been among the very earliest crafts to which men put his ingenuity, and the skill of his hands.

Suffice it to say - that among the first memories of my childhood are happy occasions, when carrying a small basket I filled it with precious flowers - the first snowdrops and primroses, and all the treasures of the garden and the woods. Many of these little bunches found a place on my mother's writing table.

All through my life I associate baskets with happy times and happy doings - with gardening - with picking flowers and blackberries - two of my favourite relaxations.

For these personal reasons I am proud to be admitted to this Company, established during the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth. Since 1569 the Basketmakers have written in the annals of this City a long record of benevolence and of service. The training and employment of blind workers is not the least of this good work for the community.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honour you have done me this morning, and assure you of my constant interest in the well being of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, of which it is my pride today to be the youngest Freeman.

February 2nd 1954. Mary.

COPY OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARY'S SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

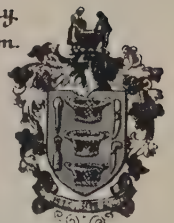
Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal having graciously signified her willingness to accept the Honorary Freedom of The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, this Deed witnesseth that at an Extraordinary Court of the Company held on the 2nd day of February, 1954 her Royal Highness was duly admitted to the said Freedom.

The Wardens, Court and Members of this Ancient Guild have always recollected with pride and gratitude the signal honour conferred upon them by her late Majesty Queen Mary, in graciously accepting the Honorary Freedom of the Company in 1937, and now, ever actuated by feelings of affectionate loyalty to The Crown and Royal Family, welcome her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to the Freedom of the Company.

Frank J. Hunt — Prime Warden.

Eric J. Parker — Junior Warden.

K. J. Parker — Clerk.



THE FREEDOM SCRIPT

HAREWOOD HOUSE,
LEEDS.

February 8th 1954.

Dear Mr Prime Warden,

I write to thank you and the Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers for your welcome to me on February 2nd, and for the honour you did me by bestowing on me the Honorary Freedom of your Company. I shall value this association very highly in the years to come, especially in view of the interest which my Mother had taken for so long in the ancient traditions of your craft.

The lovely work basket will be a useful and delightful reminder of a very happy occasion. It was a great pleasure to me to enjoy your hospitality, after the ceremony of initiation was over, and I could count myself one of your number.

Please convey my grateful thanks to my fellow freemen of the Basketmakers Company.

Yours sincerely

Mary

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARY'S LETTER OF THANKS
ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY

BENEVOLENT FUNDS

The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers of the City of London is not one of the rich Guilds but its record has heretofore been stated in a document dated 1812, in the following terms:

> That the said Company of Basketmakers have from time to time contributed, borne and paid their full and due proportion and share of the contributions and duties from time to time paid by the other Companies of the City of London.

Subsequently a perusal of its records of the period covered by this review go to show that it has fully maintained this attitude in matters of a national, civic, and ecclesiastical nature, besides having its own benevolent fund.

BENEVOLENT FUND

(Supported by Voluntary Contributions)

The Fund was established by the Court in 1910, and that assistance therefrom be strictly confined to members of the Basketmakers Company or persons connected with the Craft, and that the fund be under the control and jurisdiction of the Court.

That each member of the Company be asked to give an annual subscription or donation and that the Court make grants to the Benevolent Fund from the General Funds from time to time at their discretion.

The late Mr J. B. Schrader, Prime Warden 1930–31 (a City Bridge Master), left a legacy of £50 to the Benevolent Fund, and a sum of £50 was donated to the Fund in memory of the late Professor Thomas Okey, Honorary Freeman of the Company.

The late Mr H. H. Bobart, Clerk to the Company from 1907 to 1952 and Prime Warden 1947–48, who was very largely responsible for initiating and building up the Benevo-

lent Fund to its present size, himself bequeathed a sum of £50 to it.

W. W. SNELLING FUND

The late Mr W. W. Snelling, a Freeman of the Company, who died on 22 July 1922, left by his will a sum of £500 in trust, to pay out of the income thereof sums of £5 only, to any Member or widow of any late Member of the Company over 60 years of age and in necessitous circumstances.

H. H. BOBART MEMORIAL FUND

Wishing to commemorate the long and distinguished Clerkship of the late Mr H. H. Bobart, the Court in July 1953 resolved to set up the H. H. Bobart Memorial Fund, and uses the money as opportunity affords to support causes which would have been dear to Mr Bobart's heart, namely the relief of poverty or distress and in encouragement of the craft of basketmaking

HONORARY FREEDOMS

PROFESSOR THOMAS OKEY, M.A.

15 January 1913

Thomas Okey was the son of Thomas Okey who was Upper Warden of this Company during the years 1831–3, whilst his grandfather, also Thomas Okey, had similarly occupied the Upper Warden's Chair during the years 1824–6.

He was apprenticed to his father and practised his craft as a Journeyman Basketmaker, and eventually as a Master, for 31 years.

In consideration of his services to the Company and industry in preparing and publishing his book entitled *The Art of Basketmaking* which he dedicated to the Company, the Court ordered 100 copies as text-books, to be distributed to public libraries in localities where the craft was operative, and in recognition of these valuable services he was made an Honorary Freeman.

Whilst still working at his craft in 1892, he was appointed teacher of Italian at Toynbee Hall. In 1918 he was appointed assistant examiner to the Civil Service Commission, and a year later he was elected Professor of Italian at the University of Cambridge. Among his literary attainments was his share in the translations of Dante's works.

On 31 May 1919, the Professor was granted the academic degree of Master of Arts at Cambridge and was elected a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College.

In recognition of the valuable services rendered to Italy during the 1914–18 War and in connection with the Peace Conference of 1919, his name was added in 1921 to the Roll of Officers of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

In 1922 as a representative of Cambridge University at the Seventh Centenary of the University of Padua, the degree of Doctor of Arts of that University, *honoris causa*, was conferred on him, whilst in 1933 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the British Academy.

Last but not least, he managed to find time to act as the examiner in Basketwork for the Department of Technology of the City and Guilds of London Institute during the years 1899–1930.

MRS CONSTANCE WHITE

6 December 1916

Wife of J. C. N. White, Junior Warden. Accorded the Honorary Freedom of the Company as an acknowledgement and in appreciation of the interest she had taken in the Company's welfare. On 7 November 1916, Mrs White presented the Company with a gold chain and badge, a family heirloom, which had served as a Sheriff's Chain and Badge about 60 years previously. She offered it as a Prime Warden's Chain and Badge of office. The Chain consists of finely shaped links, each link being elaborately engraved. The Badge, an exquisite specimen of the goldsmith's art, is worked out in gold and enamel. The Arms of the Company, surmounted by the Crest and Motto "Let us Love one Another", are shown in the centre, the basketwork being most delicately drawn in silver and blue enamel. These are supported by and enclosed within the Arms of the City of London on the dexter, the Arms of Middlesex on the sinister, with the City Mace and Sword on either side; at the base appears the City motto "Domine dirige nos". At the back of the badge is engraved the following: "Presented by Mr. & Mrs. J. C. N. White to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, may it flourish root and branch". On 21 October 1925, it is recorded that the late Mrs White had bequeathed £100 for the general purposes of the Company.

CLAUDE FREDERIC WESTBURY

18 January 1922

GEORGE FREDERICK YOUNG

22 February 1922

These Gentlemen donated the sum of £500, which, under the heading of the Westbury Young Trust for the promotion of

the craft of basketmaking in Great Britain, served a very useful purpose over a period of years. The Trust was terminated in July 1965.

LADY HENRY BIRD

20 May 1925

Wife of Lt-Col. Sir Henry Busby Bird, J.P., Prime Warden 1924–25 (12 times Mayor of Shoreditch 1903–19). For her keen interest in the Guild.

SIR CHARLES BATHO, Bt

(Lord Mayor of London 1927–8)

8 October 1928

In appreciation of his interest in the craft and his kindness in permitting the Exhibition of British-made basketware held at the Mansion House in September 1928. He was appointed Honorary Freeman and Liveryman.

DR ARTHUR HERMANN THOMAS,

M.A., LL.D., F.S.A.

15 July 1936

Deputy Keeper of Records, Guildhall, London. For services rendered from time to time in the Guild's interest.

HER MAJESTY, QUEEN MARY

8 June 1937

In appreciation of Her Majesty's interest in the ancient craft of basketmaking. The Company will always remember with pride the gracious kindness of Her Majesty in personally presenting the Company's Royal Charter on 30 April 1937 at Guildhall.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS MARY THE PRINCESS ROYAL

2 February 1954

For her interest in the craft and as donor of the collection of miniature baskets, originally collected by His Royal Highness,

Prince George, Duke of Kent, and given to his mother, Her Majesty Queen Mary, in turn presented to the Company by the Princess, who lunched with the Court and their ladies at the Butchers' Hall after the ceremony of signing the Freedom Roll.

W. R. LONG, THE BEADLE

17 April 1957

For his long, loyal, and faithful service to the Company during many years.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE COURT

On resignation from active membership the following were made Honorary Members of the Court:

C. R. J. Tijou, Prime Warden 1921–22	*18 July 1926*
Walter Young, LL.B., J.P.	
Prime Warden 1912-13	*20 October 1937*
J. C. N. White, Prime Warden 1917–18	*16 January 1935*
Sir Henry Davenport, J.P., C.C.	
Prime Warden 1935–36	*15 January 1941*
Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.	
Prime Warden 1941–42	*20 April 1966*

W. J. CHURCHILL

A FREEMAN AND TRADE MEMBER

16 January 1924

In appreciation of the interest he took in the technical work of the Guild, he was made free of the City by the Company.

CECIL ALFRED RUST

29 April 1960

A Liveryman. In appreciation of his outstanding services to the Company as its Clerk, was appointed a Member of the Court of Assistants.

ADVISORY MEMBERS OF THE COURT

In furtherance of the Company's desire to keep abreast of happenings and conditions in the industry in 1911, the Court was very anxious to revive an active interest in the Craft and with this in mind they deputed two of their Freemen who were practical members of the Craft to survey the situation and advise them accordingly. Their choice fell upon a very knowledgeable team in the persons of an international authority on the cultivation of osiers and a director of one of the most important hamper-makers in the Midlands—Mr William Paulgrave Ellmore and Mr James Okey, a London Master Basketmaker whose forebears had held prominent positions in the Company. In 1919 the Company decided to invite active operative members of the Craft to attend their Court Meetings in an advisory capacity. The first so selected were Professor Thomas Okey and Mr W. R. Stokes, F.R.A.S., both of whom were undoubted masters of their craft. As time went on they were succeeded by equally eminent trade representatives; occasionally the combination was made up of a member of the employers' side and a member of the men's Union; then again the sighted and blind sections of the Craft collaborated in this capacity as well. This arrangement has continued up to the present time and is favourably regarded by the Company.

WESTBURY AND YOUNG TRUST

In February 1922, a Trust under the above title was formed in London, the late Mr Claude F. Westbury (Messrs F. Westbury & Son Ltd) and the late Mr G. F. Young (Messrs Jacobs, Young & Co. Ltd) having each offered a sum of £250 for promoting the craft of basketmaking.

The offers were made to the London Cane and Willow Workers' Employers' Association and after consideration it was decided to accept them, and arrangements were made for the money to be held in trust by The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. The income from this Trust was expended for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the art, trade, or business of basketmaking in Great Britain, by such methods as the Committee should determine.

Under the Trust Deed, the expenditure was in the hands of a representative Committee, consisting of three Members of the London Cane and Willow Workers' Employers' Association, two Members of the London Union of Journeymen Basket Makers, and the Clerk to the Basketmakers' Company.

The income from this trust served a very useful purpose in providing money prizes for competitions and exhibitions held under the aegis of the Company over a period of many years. This applied to sighted and blind basketmakers. It also served to assist in furthering the efforts of the joint federations of the trade (employers and employed) in backing various parliamentary projects considered to be for the benefit of British basketmaking. In view of the terms of the Trust, which required the income to be disbursed annually, and owing to the lack of support owing to changed conditions, exhibitions and the like were out of favour for the time being and the Trust was terminated in May 1965.

APPLICATION FOR A CHARTER

The long and protracted proceedings in connection with the petition for a charter which began in 1664 were still unsatisfied in 1701, when it appears that no further effort in this connection was made, although in 1698 there appears to have been an objection lodged by the Joyners against the petition, but on what grounds it is not stated. However, nothing seems to have been lost by the disappointments of previous years, for on 27 April 1937 His Majesty King George VI made the necessary grant, and moreover the Company had the signal honour of receiving the Royal Charter from the hands of Her Majesty Queen Mary, who personally presented it when she attended the Exhibition of Basketware held at the Guildhall on 30 April 1937.

COMPANY'S ARMS

As already recorded (Appendix E. p. 156) the use of the Company's Arms was by prescription or ancient usage; the first mention of the Coat of Arms in the Company's Records is to be found in the Quarter Book under date 26 August 1672, in a list of various payments as follows: "Paid for the Coat of Arms . . . 01.05.00." (the sum of 25s. was probably paid for designing the Armorial Bearings). The reference to the display of the Company's Arms at the Guildhall has submitted to a change, since these were destroyed in the Blitz, but subsequently, when the renovations took place, a decorative frieze was incorporated in the Great Hall, embracing the Arms of all the City Livery Companies, including, of course, that of the Basketmakers. In January 1931, it was decided to enter the Company's old Arms at the College of Arms, thus assuring their use for the Company's purpose only, or by their permission. The actual request to register was possibly prompted by a suggestion from the basketmaking trade which was at that time seeking "an Order in Council" under the Merchandise Marks Act to have imported basketware compulsorily marked "Foreign", whereas the home-produced articles could bear the imprint "British Made" incorporating a registered mark, such as the Company's Arms.

The ornate document signed, sealed, and delivered by the College of Arms is to be seen in the vestibule of the Innholders Hall, where it is displayed by kind permission of the Master and Court of the Worshipful Company of Innholders. Since the registration became effective there are several additions to the description which are included herewith, commencing at the Crest and working downwards. The Crest consists of a child in a cradle, rocked at the head by a girl, and at the foot by a boy, both vested all proper (in natural colours). The Crest was affixed to the Helmet by rivets, and in order to conceal the rivets "a wreath of colours" was used: this was of silk having six twists, and was in the colours of the owner—in the

The Arms of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers of the City of London, based on the original design of 26 August 1672, but officially granted by the College of Arms in 1931

case of the Basketmakers Company, Argent and Azure (silver and blue). The Helmet shown is that of an Esquire, as being appropriate to a corporate body. The shield is Azure (light blue background); on this are mounted three cross baskets (made with a cross or openwork weave) in Pale (one above the other), with a Prime (known in the Trade as a bodkin, used for piercing the basketwork), and an Iron (a flat, blunt blade with a ring at the top, used for lightly knocking the basket-weave closer together during the making process, the ring at the top to assist in straightening crooked material). These tools figure on the Dexter (right hand of the shield bearer). The cutting knife (for cutting the material into the desired lengths) and the Outsticker (a knife used for trimming the butts and tops of the material which protrude at the finish of the weaving stroke). These figure on the Sinister (left hand of the shield bearer). The blades are all downward and in Pale (one above the other), all in Argent (silver). Surrounding the Shield and Helmet is a form of ornamentation which is known as the Manteling. It had its origin when the Knights in armour wore a covering of cloth over their shoulders and back, to help protect them from the effects of the sun on their armour. This manteling appears in all grants of Arms, but is more noticeable in Arms which have no supporters (heraldic leopards, griffins, or the like). In the case where supporters appear, it still forms a background but it is less noticeable. The motto "Let us love one another" is the English rendering of the Anglo Saxon "Lettan us luffu an other". The tools portrayed are still in active use by the operative basketmaker.

In 1951 the Festival of Britain Council requested permission to fly the Company's Arms on a flag which they were having made, and which was to be flown in conjunction with other companies' flags in celebration of the 1951 Festival of Britain Exhibition. This was readily agreed to.

MEETING PLACES

From 1873 the Company enjoyed the hospitality of the Parish Clerks' Hall in Silver Street until September 1924, when a move was again made to Guildhall. This arrangement was disturbed by the outbreak of World War II, 1939. Another venue had to be found, which under war conditions was sometimes of only a temporary nature. They were accommodated at Haberdashers' Hall, Connaught Rooms, Vintners' Hall, and Gresham College. Fortunately, something of a more permanent nature matured and for about 11 years the Company was comfortably quartered at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. In 1953 a move was made to the Company's original sponsors (in 1569) at the Butchers' Hall, where they stayed until the demolition of the premises in connection with a development scheme. In 1958 the Worshipful Company of Innholders then became the Company's host, and the Court is still enjoying their hospitality.

The foregoing in the main deals with Court Meetings, but many and varied were the locations of their social and exhibition activities, such as:

The London Tavern
De Keysers Hotel
Great Eastern Hotel
Cannon Street Hotel
Hotel Cecil
Chapter House St Paul's
Crystal Palace
Star and Garter, Richmond
Grocers' Hall
Girdlers' Hall
Clothworkers' Hall
Fishmongers' Hall
Salters' Hall
Apothecaries' Hall
Guildhall House
Livery Hall, Guildhall
Mansion House

It is worthy to note that a close affinity with the Parish Clerks' Company still exists, for a prominent Member of our Court, in the person of Mr Deputy Percy Lovely, has been invested as the Master of the Parish Clerks (20 July 1966).

Many City Companies are the proud possessors of really

magnificent Halls. Unfortunately much destruction and damage was occasioned during the blitz on the City in the Second World War: 15 halls were destroyed, 19 were damaged, and 3 remained intact.

When the Guildhall was so badly damaged and provisional schemes for rebuilding were under discussion, the "Hall-less Companies" put forward the suggestion that a Livery Hall should be incorporated in the plans. We are grateful to acknowledge that the suggestion was adopted, and the splendid Livery Hall is now an established fact. Many years previously (1913) the Wardens were invited to attend a meeting of the "Hall-less Companies" with a view to acquiring the Old Pearl Life Offices as a Guildhall and institute, also another rather novel idea was mooted by a Past Master of the Guild of Freemen, whose suggestion was to secure jointly one of the derelict church sites in the City and build a communal hall. Both schemes eventually fell through.

One of the most pleasing features of the Livery is the helpful spirit of co-operation which exists, whereby the more fortunate companies make their Halls available to the "Hall-less".

THE LORD MAYOR'S PROCESSION

THE Company was invited to enter a float in the Lord Mayor's show on 9 November 1927, which was to be representative of the craft. (A photograph of the exhibit is shown herewith.)

Three landaus were placed at the disposal of the Court to accompany the exhibit in the procession—two were occupied by the Company's principal officers and the trade representatives occupied the third.

The float was surmounted by an observation balloon basket, mounted on a cargo basket (capacity one ton); there are various other exhibits including raw material—osiers or withies and rattan (cane)—the whole range covering almost every aspect of the industry.

In mentioning the foregoing it had particular significance, as it was not uncommon for the principal officers of the Company to form part of the Lord Mayor's Procession, but on this occasion the Company wished to demonstrate its close relationship with the Craft, hence the representatives of the Trade and their float exhibiting examples of their handicraft.

THE CRAFT OF BASKETMAKING

When thinking in terms of basketware, many are inclined to visualize the domestic articles that one sees in the household, but the commercial uses cover a very much wider field. In a recent publication giving the details of various City Companies, they were classified under various headings, such as clothing, food, drink, etc. The Basketmakers', for the want of a better description, were classified "Transport by Land", which is really only part of the story, for not only has it many uses as an aid to transport by land, but also has uses on and under the water, likewise in the air.

The coracle is still in use in the West Country, and baskets lined with pitch are used by the Arabs on the River Tigris: there they are known as Gooffahs. Under-water use, to mention one or two examples, embraces the lobster and crab pots and the salmon "Putts" used by the River Severn fisherman.

As regards the air, undoubtedly the greatest concerted effort the basketmaking industry was ever called upon to undertake was the manufacture of air-borne panniers for use in the Second World War (1939–45). These, it will be remembered, were parachuted to the troops in forward positions, filled with all sorts of necessary supplies. We are reminded that it was in the year 1682, when this Company was applying to King Charles II for a Charter (as already mentioned, p. 53), that the Wardens stressed the fact that they were makers of cannon baskets for the use of His Majesty's forces. Cannon basket is the obsolete description for a gabion or corbeil, a cylindrical basket open at each end, which, when filled with earth, served a similar purpose to the sand-bags of our day and age. Since the reign of George III the bearskins of the Brigade of Guards are worn on a wickerwork frame. The aforementioned articles of basketware by no means cover the utility of the craft in producing many necessary adjuncts for service in times of national emergency. During the South African War the call was for

panniers to load on the mules and horses; in the 1914–18 War thousands of shell-containers were made in basketware, likewise gun mats, aeroplane seats, balloon-baskets for observation and free ballooning. And during the period 1939–45 many a ditched bomber crew were thankful for the baskets containing the carrier pigeons which they released in an emergency. The National Fire Service made extensive use of wickerwork strainer for their hoses, when drawing water from extemporary sources.

In furtherance of the Company's policy in associating itself with the Basketmaking Industry and as a substitute to the complete control exercised in its early years, in 1915 the Company took a hand in the formation of the Trade Association in London and assisted in financing it in its early stages. This coordination during the 1914–18 War was necessary in order to simplify the production of many types of basketware for war purposes. Having dealt with the London side of the organization, it became necessary to federate the other basketmaking districts in the Provinces. Here again the Company took a prominent part in the proceedings, and by their good offices—and at their expense—a grant of special incorporation by Licence from the Board of Trade was obtained, thus the five areas: London, Lancashire and Cheshire, Yorkshire, Midland Counties, and West of England and South Wales through their associations constituted the National Federation. These arrangements had beneficial results in subsequent years in arranging competitions and examinations for the sighted, the blind, and the disabled ex-servicemen trainees. A succession of very successful exhibitions was conducted in one or other of the City Livery Companies' Halls and later at the Mansion House and Guildhall. In order that the Company should know what was transpiring and to maintain continuity, the Clerk Mr H. H. Bobart was invested as Honorary Treasurer and later as Honorary Vice President. On many occasions the Company's representatives participated in deputations to Departments of State in matters considered to be of great importance to the industry.

At about this time the Company invited a representation of

Lord Mayor's Procession Float with Exhibits of Basketware

AIRBORNE PANNIERS READY FOR PARACHUTING FROM AN AIRCRAFT

BRITISH BASKETWORK "AIR-DROP PANNIER" ABOUT TO BE PARACHUTED BY MEMBERS OF 60 SQUADRON, ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT, DURING OPERATIONS IN THE RADFAN, SOUTHERN ARABIA, IN 1965

(By permission of the Ministry of Defence, Army Department)

THE SPIRIT OF BASKETMAKING.
RITA ON HER WAY TO THE GUILDHALL EXHIBITION
OF BRITISH-MADE BASKETS

provincial Basketmakers to visit them in London when they were shown the Company's old books and records.

A further demonstration of the liaison existing between the Company and the Industry was brought about by the formation of yet another Committee for the purpose of assuring supplies of materials and the rationing of the same during the Second World War. In this connection many intimate details of the previous trading of individuals were called for, and not unnaturally many firms were diffident about parting with these details; however, to get over the difficulty it was arranged that these intimate particulars should be sent to the Clerk of the Company, who would collate the information and pass it on to the Committee for their guidance. Once again the utility of the Company and in particular of its worthy Clerk Mr H. H. Bobart who thus became Registrar in this delicate procedure.

Passing references have been made to examinations and exhibitions conducted under the Company's auspices at City Companies' Halls, although in themselves these were quite an attainment; but possibly the highlight of the achievement in this direction, and the one which gave the trade its greatest up-lift, was the series of manufacturers' exhibitions held in the first and second instances in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, to be followed by exhibitions of a similar character in successive years at the Guildhall. At each of these the opening ceremony was conducted by the Lord and LadyMayoress, with the Sheriffs and their ladies. The City Corporation were most helpful in these matters and the Trade staged exhibitions of the highest quality and diversity.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the examinations and exhibitions conducted under the auspices of the Company, were the expressions of thanks and approval received from the Ministry of Labour Training Department, from the Employers' Federation, and the Men's Union. The Ministry wrote in these terms:

At a Meeting of the National Trade Advisory Committee, Cane, Basket and Willow Industry, held at Nottingham on the 5 December 1922 it was reported to the Committee the result of the Exhibition in

Basketmaking held under the auspices of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, in so far as it affected the Disabled Ex-Servicemen in training under the Ministry of Labour Scheme, and in the course of the Meeting Employers and Operative Members of the Committee expressed their very high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Company in promoting such exhibitions, and it was the unanimous opinion of the Members of the Committee that such exhibitions were of inestimable value to the Trade.

These were by no means isolated incidents. One outcome of the Training Scheme was the formation of the Hospital Wards Industries for which Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, was responsible. The Company's examiners were available to this organization in the capacity of advisers as well as examiners. Every year on Armistice Day an exhibition and sale of work was conducted at the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington, when prizes were awarded for the best exhibits. It was on these occasions that it was easy to assess the very keen interest of the members of the Royal Family, who were constant attenders at these exhibitions of Arts and Crafts, particularly of Her Majesty Queen Mary, who displayed more than an ordinary interest in the basketware section.

In concluding the foregoing references to the Company's relations with the Industry, more especially in connection with the Mansion House and Guildhall Exhibitions, all concerned with these events are fully conscious of the valuable assistance which was forthcoming from the City Corporation and in particular for the time so willingly devoted to these functions by the Lord Mayors in office at the time, viz: Sir Charles Batho, Sir Kynaston Studd, Sir William Waterlow, Sir W. Phene Neal, Sir Maurice Jenks, and Sir Percy Greenaway.

"MILESTONES"

UNDER this heading items of general interest are enumerated in chronological order.

1907–15

Before the advent of the formation of the Trade Associations in 1915, the Company, in order to assist the project of the City and Guilds of London Institute in connection with their Basketwork Syllabus, provided money prizes for the successful candidates during the above-mentioned period.

APRIL 1911

The Clerk reported the gift of a basketwork ballot-box by Mr James Okey. This was unfortunately destroyed at the Guildhall, but was replaced by a ballot-box carved from a wooden beam from the roof of the blitzed Guildhall, the gift of Past Prime Warden Mr Deputy Percy T. Lovely (15 January 1947).

1914

Although not a Member of the Company at the time, Percy Thomas Lovely (subsequently Sheriff, Prime Warden of the Company, and Deputy for the Tower Ward) volunteered for the ill-fated Royal Naval Division Expedition to Antwerp. Unfortunately the Unit was captured by the enemy and Percy Lovely languished as a prisoner-of-war for the remainder of the hostilities of the 1914–18 War.

AUGUST 1914

A special Meeting of the Court was called to consider the receipt of a telegram from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, asking for support to His Highness's National Relief Fund. The Prime Warden moved that they should forgo the Court Dinner they had in prospect, and devote the cost of the function to the Fund; at the same time he invited private

donations from the Members of the Company. This was agreed to and eventually the sum of 100 guineas was sent to His Highness's Fund.

1914–18

Early in the 1914–18 War, the Rev. Basil Graham Bouchier, M.A. (a Freeman), was assisting in the organization of the British Red Cross Hospitals in Belgium. He was arrested by the Germans and sentenced to be shot as a spy. Through the intervention of a German officer, whose wife was an English woman, the sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Germany. Later he became Chaplain to H.M. Forces and eventually Vicar of St Ann's, Soho.

NOVEMBER 1916

Mrs Constance White, wife of Prime Warden J. C. N. White, donated a magnificent gold chain and badge for use as a Prime Warden's Badge of Office, replacing the original badge which was deposited with the Guildhall Museum.

JULY 1917

Representation of the People. The Plural Voting Bill debarred the Liverymen of their ancient right of voting for the Members of Parliament for the City.

12 APRIL 1918

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria attended an Exhibition at Girdlers' Hall of basketwork by disabled and blind soldiers and sailors. This Exhibition was opened by the Rt Hon. Lord William Cecil, C.V.O., a Liveryman of the Company.

22 FEBRUARY 1922

The Prime Warden C. J. R. Tijou, Esq., the Junior Warden Sir Stanley Johnson, M.P., Senior Past Prime Warden W. T. P. Montgomery, Esq., and the Clerk H. H. Bobart, Esq., M.B.E., attended at Buckingham Palace, and on behalf of the Com-

pany presented a work-basket to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on the occasion of her marriage.

16 April 1924

Past Prime Warden W. T. P. Montgomery (1883–84) was presented by the Members of the Court with a special badge bearing the Company's Arms to mark his jubilee of membership of the Company 1874–1924.

12 November 1925

An examination and exhibition was conducted by the Company at the Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, on 12 November 1925. The Lord Mayor, Sir William Pryke, performed the opening ceremony, but the organized sections of the Trade in London—the London Cane & Willow Workers Employers Association and the London Union of Journeymen Basketmakers—had arranged to make this occasion somewhat in the nature of an outstanding event, whereby they could acknowledge the ever-ready assistance so willingly given by the Clerk of the Company, Mr H. H. Bobart, over a period of years. The Lord Mayor kindly carried out, on behalf of the Trade, the presentation of a silver salver, suitably engraved, together with a tea and coffee service.

December 1927

As a result of the rapacious appetite of the Inland Revenue, it was decided to levy income tax on the Livery Companies' Freedom Fees. This was hotly contested by the Livery Companies, but without avail.

September 1928

The Company expressed its grateful thanks to the Lord Mayor Sir Charles Batho, Bt, for the use of the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, for the first Trade Basketware Exhibition held under their auspices (11 and 12 September 1928).

October 1928

At a special Court Meeting the Honorary Freedom and

Livery of the Company was conferred on Alderman Sir Charles Batho, Bt.

OCTOBER 1929

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Lord Mayor, Sir Kynaston Studd, Bt, O.B.E., M.A., LL.D., for the use of the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, for an Exhibition of British-Made Basketware.

JULY 1930

The Prime Warden congratulated his Junior Warden, Mr J. B. Schrader, on his re-election as a Bridge Master of the City of London.

OCTOBER 1930

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Corporation of the City of London, for the first of a series of very successful Exhibitions of British-Made Basketware held at the Guildhall.

JANUARY 1933

Sheriff Sir Lacon Threlford, M.B.E., F.C.A., presented a silver mace, an exact replica of the original brass mace (about 200 years old) which was deposited with Guildhall Museum.

JULY 1933

In common with other City Companies a grant was made in response to Lord Macmillan's appeal for funds for the new building of the University of London.

OCTOBER 1933

A presentation of a wrist watch was made to Past Prime Warden the Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., H.C.F., in recognition of his services as Deputy Prime Warden following the untimely death in Office of the ruling Prime Warden, Mr William Arthur Dickson.

JULY 1934

An imposing Prime Warden's Collar Badge of Office, embracing the Company's authentic Coat of Arms, as recently granted by the College of Arms, was presented by Major

Richard Rigg, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., B.A. (President of the City Livery Club 1921–22).

JANUARY 1935

The Prime Warden Mr Nathan Moss was thanked for the presentation of a new clerk's gown.

19 JANUARY 1936

H. H. Bobart presented each Member of the Court with a copy of his book *Basketwork through the Ages*.

APRIL 1936

A draft of the Petition to the Privy Council for a Royal Charter was submitted to the Court by Dr A. H. Thomas, M.A., LL.D., the Deputy Clerk of the Records, Guildhall, on whom the Honorary Freedom was subsequently conferred.

SEPTEMBER 1936

It was agreed that the Company's Arms in stained glass be presented to the Baltic Exchange, where similar reproductions of other City Companies' Arms were exhibited.

APRIL 1937

A letter from the Clerk of the Privy Council was read:

13th April 1937.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lord President of the Council to inform you that the King was pleased at the Council held by His Majesty this day, to approve the grant of a Charter to the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers.

The Order in Council approving the Draft Charter will be issued to the Home Office from which Department you will receive a communication in due course.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Sgd. E. Leadbitter.

30 APRIL 1937

An Exhibition of Basketware was held at Guildhall by kind permission of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen. This Exhibition was graced by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Mary, who further honoured the Company by presenting the Royal Charter of the Company to the Prime Warden, F. W. Ingle Lowe, Esq., C.C.

8 JUNE 1937

The Prime Warden and Senior Members of the Court attended at Marlborough House, where they were received by Her Majesty Queen Mary who graciously accepted the Honorary Freedom of the Company.

FEBRUARY 1938

Sir Richard Sennett, C.ST.J., C.C. (Sheriff 1924), a member of the Court, presented the Company with a silk embroidered banner, portraying the Company's Arms.

OCTOBER 1939

It was resolved consequent on the outbreak of war that Members serving in His Majesty's sea, land, and air forces, would be absolved from paying their Company dues during the course of hostilities.

JANUARY 1940

The Clerk, H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., presented a wooden shield with the Company's Arms painted thereon. This shield is normally displayed at St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap, during the annual Election Service.

APRIL 1940

The Committee of the Sheriff's Fund invited the Court to nominate one of its Members to be a Life Governor of that Charity. The Father of the Company, Past Prime Warden G. J. Pryor, was appointed.

1941–42

Prime Warden Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A., arranged and conducted many successful visits by the Members to Halls and places of interest in the City.

APRIL 1942

The Gift of a Chaplain's Collar and Jewel of Office was made by Prime Warden Sidney Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.

20 JUNE 1945

H.M.S. *Anson* having been adopted by the City of London, the Lord Mayor Sir Charles Davis, D.L., invited the Livery Companies to present a shield bearing each Company's Arms for display in the ship's chapel. This was readily agreed to, and at a later date Captain Orr Ewing invited a deputation from the Court to visit the battleship at Weymouth. Four senior members of the Court duly made this most interesting visit (9 July 1949).

16 OCTOBER 1946

After referring in kindly terms to the long service of the Clerk, the Prime Warden then, on behalf of the Wardens and Members of the Court, presented the Clerk H. H. Bobart, Esq., M.B.E., with a silver cigar box, on the lid of which the Company's Coat of Arms was engraved and the words:

"Presented to H. H. Bobart, Esq., M.B.E."

And on the inside of the lid the following inscription:

"A token of the esteem in which you are held by your friends on the Court of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers, and to offer affectionate congratulations on the occasion of your eighty-second Birthday. August, 1946."

15 JANUARY 1947

The Clerk submitted a draft of the Diplomas to be issued by the Company to Apprentices successful in the basketwork examinations conducted by the Joint Examining Board, as approved by the Board of Trade. The Draft Diploma was approved.

JULY 1947

Mrs Evelyn Pryor, the widow of Past Prime Warden H. E. Pryor, asked the Court to accept her late husband's Past Prime Warden's Badge for the use of the Junior Warden whilst in Office. This was gratefully accepted.

OCTOBER 1947

A letter to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth conveying the good wishes of the Members of the Basketmakers' Company on the occasion of Her Royal Highness's forthcoming marriage to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten was approved.

APRIL 1948

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Alderman Sir George Wilkinson, Bt, for presenting the successful Petition for an increased Livery (300) on behalf of the Company.

DECEMBER 1948

The Clerk reported that he had, on behalf of the Wardens and Members of the Court, sent a letter of congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh on the birth of the infant Prince Charles.

1951

Sydney Charles Thomas Littlewood (Prime Warden 1961–62) was created Knight, Chairman of the Legal Aid Committee of the Law Society 1946–52, President of the Law Society 1959–60, President London Rent Assessment Panel 1965.

JANUARY 1951

In commemoration of the State Visit to the City of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, Her Majesty conferred on Mr Sheriff Percy T. Lovely, C.C., the honour of Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

MARCH 1951

Mr Sheriff Percy T. Lovely was admitted as an Officer of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

APRIL 1951

Specimens of the Company's Plate were loaned to the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths for exhibition purposes during the Festival of Britain, the tankard presented by Mr H. H. Bobart being of special interest.

16 APRIL 1952

The country was shocked by the lamented death of His Majesty King George VI on 6 February 1952. The Company tendered its sympathies to Their Majesties Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary. We, as a Company, are ever mindful of the fact that it was His Majesty who granted our Charter in 1937.

JANUARY 1953

A Memorial Service in respect of the late Clerk, Henry Hodgkinson Bobart, was held at the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap. The address was given by the Company's Honorary Chaplain the Rev. J. A. Carter.

21 JANUARY 1953

At the suggestion of the Lord Mayor Sir Noel Vansittart Bowater, Bt, the Livery Companies were invited to link up with the City's Auxiliary Forces. The Basketmakers were fortunate enough to secure as their counterpart The London District Signals Regiment, of which our Honorary Member, Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, was Colonel Commandant, and our own Mr Deputy Percy Lovely was Honorary Colonel.

Very pleasant reciprocal arrangements were made whereby representatives from the Regiment attended at some of the Company's principal functions, and likewise some of the Senior Members of the Court attended the Unit when in camp.

APRIL 1953

The Clerk reported that Mrs Bobart had expressed a wish that she should be allowed to present to the Company the

silver cigar box which was presented by Members of the Court to her late husband in 1946 on the occasion of his 82nd birthday. He was unanimously requested by the Court to write to Mrs Bobart accepting this very gracious gift and thanking her for her kind thought.

15 APRIL 1953

The Company mourns the loss of its first Royal Freewoman, Her Majesty Queen Mary, a lady possessed of more than a casual interest in the craft of basketmaking, a personality we shall always remember with pride, for she personally presented the Company's Charter when she visited the Guildhall in 1937.

JULY 1953

The Court congratulated Sir S. Harold Gillett, M.C., F.C.A., upon the Knighthood conferred on him on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Coronation visit to the City of London on 12 June.

22 JULY 1953

As part of the Coronation celebrations and at the suggestion of the Lord Mayor, Sir Rupert de la Bere, Bt, C.V.O. (1952–53), this Company, in conjunction with other City Guilds, was invited to participate in the Royal River Pageant. This took the form of a flotilla of launches, manned by representatives from the Corporation and the various City Companies, which was to sail in line ahead past the saluting base where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, took the salute.

The Company was allocated eight places on one of the official launches and was represented by the Prime Warden, Junior Warden, five senior Members of the Court of Assistants, and the Clerk. The Lord Mayor expressed his thanks to the Company for their co-operation on this historic occasion.

5 FEBRUARY 1954

On the occasion when the Princess Royal was presented with the Freedom of the Company, the Freedom Script was pre-

sented to her in a basket which was fashioned in the form of a casket. She reciprocated by presenting the collection of miniature baskets, at one time the property of her late mother, Her Majesty Queen Mary. At the luncheon which followed the presentation of the Honorary Freedom to the Princess at Butchers' Hall, there was a full attendance of the Court Members and their ladies, together with the Company's guests: The City Chamberlain, the City Remembrancer, and representatives from the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

FEBRUARY 1954

At a Meeting of the Court, the Prime Warden Frank John Hunt was complimented on the dignified manner in which he had conducted the ceremony of admitting Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, to the Honorary Freedom of the Company. He was also thanked for his efforts in improving the Company's financial standing.

OCTOBER 1956

It was ordained by mutual consent of the Livery Companies that Masters and Prime Wardens attending Common Hall in their official capacity should be robed in their insignia of office, and be seated on the dais and front rows. The accommodation on the dais being limited, it was placed at the disposal of the 12 senior Companies, whilst the seats in the front rows were reserved for the other Companies. This arrangement presented a very colourful ceremony.

17 OCTOBER 1956

The Lord Mayor, Sir Cuthbert Ackroyd, inaugurated a fund for the restoration of the famous Bow Bells, so beloved by "true Londoners"; he invited contributions to help bring these bells back into service again. The Company was pleased to contribute.

1957–58

Prime Warden Walter Ernest Loweth, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.C., should have presided at the Company's Annual Festival, the

first they had held in the new Livery Hall, but unfortunately serious illness prevented him doing so. The Senior Past Prime Warden Nathan Moss deputized.

NOVEMBER 1958

A Congratulatory Address was presented on behalf of the Company by Prime Warden H. E. Kingsman to Alderman Sir S. Harold Gillett, M.C., F.C.A., on attaining the High Office of Lord Mayor of London (Prime Warden of the Company 1942–43). Sir Harold was subsequently created Baronet (1959), also a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

APRIL 1959

At a Meeting of the Court, Prime Warden H. E. Kingsman announced that it gave him the greatest pleasure to ask Past Prime Warden Nathan Moss to accept an illuminated album presented as a token of affection and esteem by his friends on the Court of Assistants to mark the happy occasion of his eightieth birthday.

OCTOBER 1961

Past Prime Warden Walter James Lewington presented the following books to the Company; these were at one time the property of the late Mr H. H. Bobart:

Basketwork through the Ages
Records of the Basketmakers Company
Indian Basketry
The Livery Companies of the City of London

These books were seen to be on offer for sale in Horsham, Sussex, and were secured by the donor.

15 JANUARY 1964

In an endeavour to brighten up some of the City's public buildings, a start was made on St Paul's Cathedral. The Lord Mayor Sir James Harman appealed to the City Companies

to support his scheme for cleaning the fabric of the Cathedral. The Basketmakers were pleased to be associated with the project.

15 JANUARY 1964

Raymond Graham, son of Walter Graham, Liveryman of this Company, was called upon the Livery, joining his brothers Dennis and Eric, already Liverymen, thus establishing what is believed to be a unique family membership of active Liverymen.

15 APRIL 1964

The historic bells of the Church of St Botolph Without Aldgate had been out of action for some considerable time. Sir Bernard Waley Cohen (Lord Mayor 1960–61) decided that something should be done to assist in their restoration. He accordingly appealed for funds for this purpose. The Company was pleased to co-operate.

27 MARCH 1965

It was with sincere regret that the Company had to record the sad death of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, its Honorary Freewoman. Loyal expressions of sympathy were tendered to Her Majesty and the members of the Royal Family. A message of thanks was received from the Queen. An invitation was received from the Lord Chamberlain for two Members of the Company to attend the Memorial Service to be held at Westminster Abbey on 1 April. The Senior Member of the Court and of the Company, Mr Nathan Moss, together with the Clerk, Mr Cecil A Rust, attended.

21 APRIL 1965

The Clerk reported he had received a personal letter from the Lord Mayor Sir James Miller (1964–65) requesting the Company to support a fund which he was inaugurating in connection with the Winston Churchill Memorial Fund Appeal. This request was addressed to all Members of the Company, and the sum of £150 was contributed and forwarded to the Lord Mayor.

JANUARY 1966

The Acting Prime Warden Albert P. Costain, M.P., expressed the Court's congratulations to two of its members on their recent Civic appointments, Mr Deputy Eric F. Wilkins, F.C.A., on being appointed Chief Commoner of the City of London, and Mr Percy T. Lovely on his appointment as Deputy for the Tower Ward in succession to the late Mr A. Stanley Bell.

20 JANUARY 1966

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Sir Lionel Denny, the Company was pleased to covenant over a period of seven years towards the upkeep of St Paul's Cathedral.

20 JANUARY 1966

At a Meeting of the Court, Prime Warden Arthur L. Wade reported that the Court of Aldermen had acceded to the Company's Petition that the permitted membership of the Livery be increased from 300 to 400.

The Prime Warden warmly thanked Mr Deputy Percy Lovely for his very great assistance throughout in this matter.

APRIL 1966

To mark the termination of the Westbury and Young Trust, which served such a useful purpose during its existence (1922–65) a silver salver, at one time the property of Honorary Freeman Claude Frederic Westbury (one of the co-settlers of the Trust), was presented by his son Freeman Eric Westbury, M.A.

21 JULY 1966

In response to a request that a Memorial Fund to honour the memory of the late Mr Deputy A. Stanley Bell should be instituted, and to mark the wonderful work he had carried out during the last three decades in furthering the welfare of the City Guilds, it was resolved to contribute 100 guineas to the Fund.

October 1966

At about the time that these notes were being completed, the Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor Alderman Sir Lionel Denny, KT, M.C., was entertaining to luncheon at Guildhall 18 of the few remaining survivors of the City of London Imperial Volunteers (only 29 now survive). This event revives a recollection of the undermentioned Court Minute, dated 16 October 1901:

> The Clerk reported that he had received from the War Office a South African War Medal (the clasps attached to the Medal being those earned by the City of London Imperial Volunteers during the War), in commemoration of the spontaneous and patriotic liberality shown by the Basketmakers and other City Companies in assisting to raise and equip the Corps for Active Service.

6 December 1966

This day marked the jubilee of our esteemed Father of the Company, Past Prime Warden Nathan Moss, who was called upon the Livery in 1916.

12 January 1967

At a Meeting of the Court, Prime Warden Col. H. Errington Brewis offered congratulations to Mr Deputy Eric Wilkins on his being appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Prime Warden also mentioned that this day marked the conclusion of the year of Office served by Eric Wilkins as Chief Commoner of the City of London.

THE COMPANY'S TREASURES

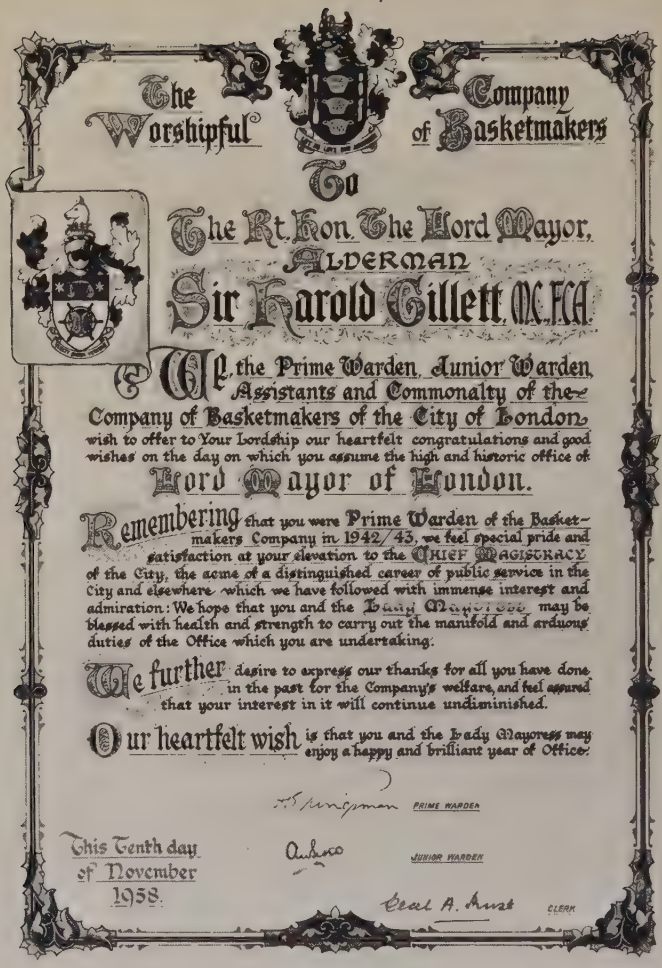
THE custody of the Company's treasures under war conditons was a continual source of anxiety: fortunately the old records were in possession of the Guildhall and they were all removed to a place of safety in the country. The Company's plate was stored in the vaults of the National Safe Deposit and the Bank strongroom. Unfortunately Barclays Bank in Basinghall Street was bombed and the contents had to be abstracted through a hole in the wall; apart from the inconvenience, the treasures did not suffer. However, at a later date when the Bank was being restored, they came across a cardboard box covered in rubble. This proved to contain the Company's Banner, but it was none the worse for its rough treatment although the staff for it was missing.

The Company's current books were kept in the Safe Deposit at this period but on the occasion of the Court Meeting on 19 July 1944, the worthy Clerk was unable to obtain his books, as there was an air-raid warning on at the time and the Deposit people always closed down everything until the all-clear was sounded.

The only item lost by enemy action was a rather special chair, a presentation piece to Professor Okey. Miss Jennie Okey in turn presented it to the Company. This was kept at the Haberdashers' Hall in Gresham Street, but it was destroyed when that Hall was bombed with high explosive. The corresponding war-damage payment was included in the Company's Benevolent Fund as a memorial to Thomas Okey.

Under this heading mention should be made of a presentation on 18 July 1934 of a very fine Prime Warden's Collarette and Badge of Office, incorporating the Company's new Coat of Arms, in accordance with the Grant by the College of Arms in 1931. This was presented by Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., B.A. (Feltmaker)—President of the City Livery Club 1921–22). Although he was not a member of the Basketmakers

Prime Warden's Collar Badge presented by Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., B.A., 18 July 1934



The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers

To

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor,
Alderman
Sir Harold Gillett, M.C., F.C.A.

We, the Prime Warden, Junior Warden, Assistants and Commonalty of the Company of Basketmakers of the City of London, wish to offer to Your Lordship our heartfelt congratulations and good wishes on the day on which you assume the high and historic office of

Lord Mayor of London.

Remembering that you were Prime Warden of the Basketmakers Company in 1942/43, we feel special pride and satisfaction at your elevation to the CHIEF MAGISTRACY of the City, the acme of a distinguished career of public service in the City and elsewhere which we have followed with immense interest and admiration: We hope that you and the Lady Mayoress may be blessed with health and strength to carry out the manifold and arduous duties of the Office which you are undertaking.

We further desire to express our thanks for all you have done in the past for the Company's welfare, and feel assured that your interest in it will continue undiminished.

Our heartfelt wish is that you and the Lady Mayoress may enjoy a happy and brilliant year of Office.

PRIME WARDEN

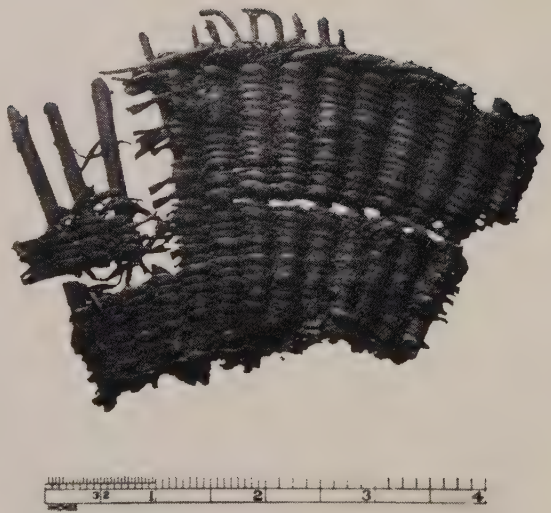
JUNIOR WARDEN

CLERK

This Tenth day of November 1958.

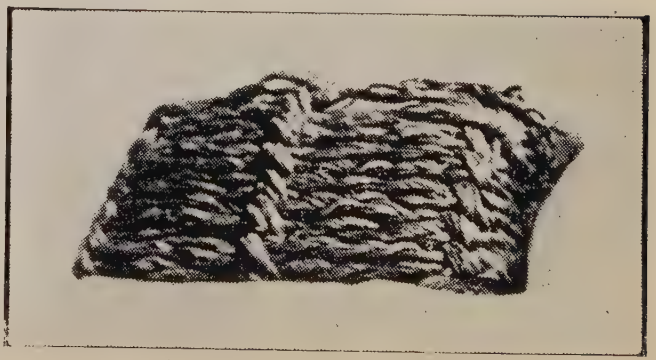
CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS TO THE RT HON. THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMAN SIR S. HAROLD GILLETT, M.C. (1958–9)

THE COMPANY'S BANNER.
PRESENTED BY SIR RICHARD SENNETT



Roman Basket Fragment from Walbrook Site.
Guildhall Museum, London

Ancient Egyptian Coiled Basketwork Linings



Ancient Egyptian Shabti Basket

he was a frequent attender at the Company's functions and was an undoubted admirer of its activities. His beneficence serves as an ever-present reminder, for the token is worn by the Prime Warden on all important occasions.

In common with most City Livery Companies, the Basketmakers are possessed of some exceptionally fine plate, a list of which is appended herewith; the plate is displayed on the Dining Tables on suitable occasions. Amongst its treasured possessions are several items of ancient and unique basketware. The British School of Archaeology in Egypt, during their excavations in the Fayum Prehistoric Settlement in 1912, came across numerous items of ancient basketwork; amongst these some coiled basketware used to line pits sunk in the ground, which served as caches for the storage of grain. These specimens, on the authority of Sir Flinders Petrie, belonged to the Bardarian Period—8000 to 1000 B.C. The Company was presented with a section of this coiled basketwork. It also received from Col. Lord William Cecil, C.V.O., one of its Liverymen and a member of the Court, a small Egyptian shabti basket made of fibre; this belongs to the 11th Dynasty (2965 to 2778 B.C.) These rare baskets were found in mummy-cases and contained food for the sustenance of the shabtis—the little figures who accompanied the members of the royal household in the underworld. According to ancient Egyptian belief, all had to do some kind of manual labour after death, and as the royal persons were not accustomed to labour, these shabtis were supposed to work for them.

A unique piece of ancient basketwork is in possession of the Guildhall Museum. It was unearthed during the excavations in the City, at about the same time that the Temple of Mithras came to light, and not far from that site, in the bed of the Walbrook River. This relic is reputed to date *circa* A.D. 120 to 150 (to the practised eye of the basketmaker, the method of workmanship has not changed). The discovery of this exhibit is of particular interest to our Company, as the Walbrook outfall into the Thames is immediately adjacent to the Innholders' Hall, off Dowgate, where the Company now holds its Court.

THE SCHEDULE

Old Books and Records

1618 Transcript of certain Acts of Henry VIII and the Ordinances of the Company (71 Vellum leaves bound in parchment)

Loaned to the Library Committee of the Corporation of the City of London.

1639 to 1824 Apprentice Roll and Quarter Book and Indenture
1661 to 1825 Roll
1665 to 1731 Freedom Roll and Quarter Book
1681 to 1745 Quarter Book and Account
1694 to 1776 Freedom Stamp Book
1694 to 1844 Orphans' Roll
1733 to 1833 Quarter Book
1745 to 1787 Minute and Account Book
1808 to 1829 Freedom Stamp Book
1808 to 1825 Minute Book
1825 to 1829 Minute Book
1829 to 1896 Minute Book
6 engraved Quarterage Notices
Apprentices Indentures (George III)
1827 Copies of Rules and Regulations
Copies of the Oath

After the blitz of 29th December 1940 all the above documents were taken to a safe place in the Taunton area by the Librarian of the Corporation and subsequently returned to the Guildhall.

The Company's Old Mace (brass)
Loaned to Guildhall Museum

An old Prime or Bodkin
Loaned to Guildhall Museum

Prime Warden's Badge (old)
Loaned to Guildhall Museum

1901 South African War Medal
Donated by the War Office

1902 Junior Warden's Badge (silver gilt)
Past Prime Warden G. E. Finch

1913 Ivory Mallet in Leather Case
Past Prime Warden A. G. Grantham

1915 Ancient Egyptian Shabti Basket, 11th Dynasty 2965–2778 B.C.
Lord William Cecil, C.V.O.

1916 Prime Warden's Gold Badge and Chain with Arms of the Company, The City, and Middlesex.
Past Prime Warden J. C. N. White and Mrs White

This Badge and Chain repaired and remodelled 1961
Past Prime Warden V. A. Ercolani

1922 Boot made in Basketwork
W. Sorrell, Esq., the maker

1925 Silver Cup to commemorate the Centenary of the Livery 1825–1925
Past Prime Warden Lt-Col. Sir Henry Busby Bird, J.P.

Silver Cup to commemorate the Centenary of the Livery 1825–1925
Lady Henry Busby Bird

Silver Cigar Box to mark Centenary of the Livery
Lt-Col. Sir H. B. Bird, J.P.

1926 Silver Fruit Dish
Lady Dron in memory of her husband Sir Thomas M. Dron

Scrap Book of old Dinner Menus
Past Prime Warden and Clerk H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A.

Prime Warden's Gown
The Company

Junior Warden's Gown
The Company

Fragment of prehistoric coiled basketry lining 10000–12000 B.C.

British School of Archaeology in Egypt

This item and the Shabti Basket remounted and housed in a new display case (1965)

Past Prime Warden S. A. Perrin

1931 Miniature Silver Cup

Sir Richard Sennett, C.C., Past Sheriff

Document of the Grant of Arms, signed, sealed, and delivered by the College of Arms. Now on display in the vestibule of the Innholders' Hall by kind permission of the Master and the Court of the Worshipful Company of Innholders

The Company

Restoration of the document and the glazed display frame

Past Prime Warden V. A. Ercolani

1933 Silver Mace, an exact replica of the original brass mace now in Guildhall Museum

Sir W. Lacon Threlford, M.B.E., F.C.A., Past Sheriff 1932

Box of miniature Basketmakers tools

A. L. Bateman, Esq.

Chairman's silver bell

Past Prime Warden and Chaplain Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., Hon.C.F.

1934 Prime Warden's Silver Gilt Collarette and Badge

Major Richard Rigg, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., B.A.

1935 Clerk's Gown

Past Prime Warden Nathan Moss

An impression of the Company's old coat of arms on silk, with basketware surround in a glass frame (about 150 years old)

T. R. Chandler, Esq., F.I.A.

1937 Silver Cup
Sir Richard Sennett, C.C., Past Sheriff

Case of Miniature English Baskets (about 70) in a glass case
Past Prime Warden and Clerk H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A.

Royal Charter
Grant made by His Majesty King George VI

1939 An Italian Chair. A presentation piece to Professor Thomas Okey
Miss Jennie Okey. Totally destroyed in the blitz, 29 December 1940, at Haberdashers' Hall

Banner with the Company's Arms in silk with detachable staff and cross
Sir Richard Sennett, C.C., Past Sheriff

A 1757 Silver Tankard, originally belonging to Gamalick and Sarah Bobart of Woodstock, Oxon.
Past Prime Warden and Clerk H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A.

1940 Wooden Shield with the Company's Arms painted thereon
Past Prime Warden and Clerk H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A.

1942 Small Georgian Silver Cup
Sir Richard Sennett, C.C., Past Sheriff

Chaplain's collar and jewel of office
Past Prime Warden S. Phillips Dales, F.R.I.B.A.

1944 Georgian Silver Punch Bowl, boat shaped
Mrs M. T. Williams, widow of Past Prime Warden and Chaplain Rev. Herbert Williams, M.A., Hon.C.F.

Cane Lectern
H. Goodwin, Esq., the maker

1945 Miniature Wine Hamper
H. Patston, Esq., the maker

1947 Past Prime Warden's Personal Badge
Mrs Evelyn Pryor, widow of Past Prime Warden H. E. Pryor, for use of Junior Warden

Ballot Box carved from Wooden Beam from the roof of the blitzed Guildhall
Past Prime Warden and Past Sheriff Deputy Percy T. Lovely

1950 Silver Cup
W. B. de St Croix, Esq.

1952 Collection of Miniature Baskets made in Madeira. Collected by His Royal Highness Prince George Duke of Kent and given by him to his mother Her Majesty Queen Mary. In turn presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, the Princess Royal, to the Company on her acceptance of the Honorary Freedom of the Basketmakers Company
Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, the Princess Royal

Glazed Showcase for the display of the above collection
Past Prime Warden V. A. Ercolani

1953 Silver Cigar Box originally presented to H. H. Bobart, M.B.E., F.S.A. (Past Prime Warden and Clerk) on the occasion of his 82nd birthday by certain Members of the Court
Mrs E. M. Bobart, his widow

1961 Skein Basket. One complete and one in process of making
W. H. Brown, Esq., made by the donor's father, James Brown

Clerk's Collarette and Badge of Office
The Company

1966 Silver salver engraved with the Company's Arms. In memory of Claude Frederic Westbury, an Honorary Freeman and one of the Co-settlers of the Westbury and Young Trust
Freeman Eric Westbury, Esq., M.A.

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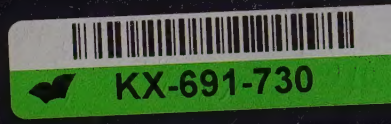
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